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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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## CHRISTMAS ON YOUR DOORSTEP 16-PAGE SHOPPING SPECIAL SEE INSIDE



# HEAD TAKES ON REV OVER CAROLS ROW

A SCHOOL headmaster has become embroiled in a festive fight with a leading Bishop over the singing of Christmas carols.

Sutton Valence School head Bruce Grindlay and the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Rev Nick Baines, have clashed over the traditional songs.

In his new book *Why Wish You A Merry Christmas* – published by the Church of England – the Rev Baines labelled some of the country's favourite carols as nonsense, embarrassing and inaccurate.

Classic carol *Away in a Manager* is

■ BY ANNA WHITE

singled out for particular criticism, with the Rev writing: "I always find it bizarre when I see parents and grandparents singing *Away in a Manager* as if it's related to reality.

"I can understand little children being taken with the sort of baby of whom it can be said "no crying he makes", but how can adults sing this without embarrassment?"

"If we sing nonsense, is it any surprise that children grow into adults and throw out the tearless baby Jesus with Father Christmas

and other fantasy figures?"

Rev Baines also criticised schools that feature untraditional characters, such as snakes and bears, into nativity plays, saying it "relegated the story to fictional fantasy" and gives children a "misleading" image of Jesus.

But Mr Grindlay, the former director of music at Christ's Hospital Boarding School, in Sussex, hit back at the claims, saying traditional songs are an integral part of the Christmas season.

The headteacher told *The Daily Mail*: "Some carols have an 800-year history and we are so entwined into the fabric of our society that we often

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



## BUILDER TOMMY IN FOR OPENING

Former *Ground Force* star Tommy Walsh will visit Bearsted later this month to open a nursing home's new extension.

The celebrity builder will meet and greet staff and residents at Barty House on Tuesday, December 15 before unveiling the multi-million pound wing.

The historic building, just off the A20, has undergone a £2million makeover. It now boasts an extra 27 en-suite bedrooms – doubling the home availability to occupants and potentially creating an extra 60 jobs for the community.

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### ALSO INSIDE

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT: Councillor Mark Wooding and Ethos staff display the new toilet sign

# Business loos open for your convenience

■ BY ANNA WHITE

TOWN centre businesses have agreed to open their toilets to the public after three public loos were close.

Shops, pubs and cafés have joined Maidstone council's community toilet scheme, allowing visitors to use their washroom facilities for free, without having to make a purchase.

The initiative was put in place after the loss of toilets in Fairmeadow, Palace Avenue and Church Street, which are all to be closed shortly.

So far, Ethos restaurant has signed up with Marks & Spencer, the Society Rooms, McDonalds in Week Street, The Royal Albion, Fortify Café, The Munch House and Tommy's Café.

The town's shopping centres and library in St Faith's Street are also joining the list.

Cabinet member for the environment Cllr Mark Wooding said: "These cafés, pubs and shops, with their longer opening hours, give people a wider choice of times to gain access to toilet facilities than ever before."

Manager of Ethos Mark Dale said: "Our toilets are already open to customers. We see no reason not to open them to the community."

Each participating shop will display a blue sticker in the window and there will be signs in the town directing people to community toilets.

The toilet closures follow a review earlier this year into public conveniences which identified a number of toilets as dated and poorly used.

The plan to close the toilets will save the council £188,500 - but cost £116,200 to implement and maintain the closures.

The decision caused outrage among fellow councillors, including Mike Fitzgerald, who wanted to see the council improve the facilities rather than shut them all together.

At the time of the consultation, Cllr Wooding defended his decision and said that the closures "reflected" a number of findings in the report.

The borough now only has responsibility for those in Lockmeadow, Allington, the temporary urinals in Maidstone High Street, Clare Park, on the Tonbridge Road, Penenden Heath, Mote Park, South Park, Whatman Park, Cobtree and Brenchley Gardens.

## yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

### Officers face assault course for our heroes

A TEAM of police officers will attempt to complete a series of gruelling tasks in aid of charity.

Twelve Maidstone-based officers hope to complete the course at David Lloyd Leisure Centre, at the Lockmeadow complex, in 10 hours.

The aim of the event on Tuesday, December 15, is to raise £5,000 for the charity Help for Heroes.

The cause is particularly important to the force as one of their own has been fighting in Afghanistan, serving with the Royal Artillery Regiment.

To sponsor the team, visit [www.just-giving.com/quadrathlon](http://www.just-giving.com/quadrathlon).

### Thieves swipe sat-nav from ambulance

LIVES were put at risk when thieves stole a sat-nav system from a parked ambulance while paramedics attended an emergency call-out.

The South East Coast ambulance was targeted while the crew was responding to an incident involving an elderly lady in Nottingham Avenue, Shepway, at 12.10am on Sunday, November 22.

Another ambulance had to be sent to the scene to take the patient to Maidstone Hospital.

Anyone with information about the stolen equipment is asked to contact Kent Police on 01622 690690.

### Robot shows you the future of recycling

A TOWERING robot is hoping to encourage residents to recycle their electrical appliances.

The 10ft Transformer will be in Maidstone council's Gateway on Monday, December 7 and Tuesday 8.

The robot, created by children from The Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone, is made from old electrical appliances.

The aim of the creation - built in partnership with the Kent Waste Partnership - is to show residents one man's rubbish is another's treasure.

For more information, visit [www.dontbinbringit.org](http://www.dontbinbringit.org).



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# 31 weapons handed in during knife amnesty

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A PRE-World War Two bayonet was handed in during a week-long knife amnesty.

The deadly blade was one of 31 weapons to be handed in at Maidstone police station.

The surrendered weapons also included kitchen knives and flick knives.

Chief Inspector David Pascoe, borough commander for Maidstone, said he was delighted with the results.

He said: "The public response from the surrender has surpassed our expectations and proves the public's commitment in helping us reduce knife crime even further. It is clear that the message has got through – every knife off the streets potentially saves a life.

"Anyone who carries a knife or weapon should think carefully about why they do this and hand it in safely.

"We are all aware that carrying a knife is unacceptable and that, given the response to this surrender, the public believes that too.

"Carrying a knife or weapon for protection is illegal and anyone found with an offensive weapon in a public place can face up to six months' imprisonment and/or a £5,000 fine."

Kent Police statistics show knife-related crime has dropped by more than half in the Maidstone area during the past five years.

There were 64 incidents involving sharp weapons reported to police in 2005.

This figure rose to 68 the following year, but then fell to 64 in 2007, 40 in 2008, and 33 between January and October this year.



**OFF THE STREETS:** A pre-World War Two bayonet was among the knives handed in during the week-long amnesty

• A fifth teenager thought to be involved in stabbing a schoolboy has been arrested just days before the week-long knife amnesty came to an end.

Police arrested the 19-year-old on Friday, November 27 on suspicion of grievous bodily harm following the attack in Northumberland Road seven days earlier.

The victim, aged 15, suffered stab wounds to his upper thighs and was taken to Maidstone

Hospital by ambulance. He is now recovering at home. Police released the fifth boy on bail until December 11.

Four other male teenagers from the area have also been arrested and bailed following the incident.

An 18-year-old has been bailed until December 11 and a 14, 15 and 16-year-old have all been bailed until January 11, pending further inquiries.



**JAILED:** Warner had threatened staff during raid

## Offender caught by sip from coffee cup

AN ARMED robber who left his DNA on a coffee cup has been jailed for five years.

Thomas Warner, 23, from Orpington, used a monkey wrench to threaten staff at the M20 Maidstone service station on Sunday, August 23, and had drunk from the cup before carrying out the crime.

The Woodley Road resident was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court last week after admitting a further three robberies, an attempted car theft, theft from vehicles, and making off without paying for fuel.

Investigating officer Gary Stamp said: "I'm pleased with today's result, which reflects the seriousness of this offence. Warner was caught after leaving a coffee cup at the scene. The DNA from this linked him directly to the crime, and after being arrested he pleaded guilty to the other offences he carried out that day.

"Warner's admittance and subsequent guilty plea reflects the excellent evidence captured from this thorough investigation."



**FIGHTING BACK:** Head Bruce Grindlay

## Bishop defends his comments

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

don't need to give pupils the words for the first verse.

"These carols may not always be challenging, but you need a certain amount of saccharin glow to draw people in."

On Sunday, the Bishop defended his comments and said they were part of a wider discussion about the importance of carols and the entire Christmas period.

Rt Rev Baines told the same paper: "Some of the carols we sing perfectly explain or describe the mystery of the incarnation.

"I love carols and I will be singing them at Christmas, as I do every year. But some carols are better than others."

## Highways Agency is accused of 'bottling' speed limiting plan

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

ROAD campaigners have slammed proposals for a motorway speed limit scheme, claiming the plan will not solve either their congestion or pollution woes.

Homeowners near the proposed reduced speed stretch of the M20 – between junction four for West Malling and seven for Vinters Park – want traffic slowed 24 hours a day.

Highways Agency bosses say the system should only come into operation at peak times or after an incident.

### Affordable

Maidstone councillor Tony Harwood has called the move a "kick in the teeth" and said this solution will not solve the gridlock or pollution constantly caused by the busy stretch – both identified in a detailed scrutiny report.

Cllr Harwood said: "The key finding of our scrutiny study was that the most practical, affordable and effective way to cut noise and air

pollution and regulate traffic flows – as a result slash crashes – was to reduce traffic speeds on the residential stretches of the M20.

"It is therefore a kick in the teeth for residents to learn that the technology would only kick in at peak times – when weight of traffic forces down speeds in any case.

"It is clear that the Highways Agency have bottled-it and caved in to the motoring lobby and betrayed residents who have to live and work in the shadow of the M20."

A Highways Agency spokesman said: "When the variable speed limits come on is dictated by traffic flows.

"The effect of the variable speed limits is to smooth the flow of traffic and minimise the frustrating stop-starts and the possible traffic collisions."

The scheme is due to go live early next year.

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NEWS IN BRIEFSharing ideas and views  
at community gathering

PARISH representatives and village groups will have the chance to share ideas and views with borough councillors at this year's community meeting.

The parish conference gives community leaders the opportunity to gather information about planning, rural youth projects, funding, rural tourism, clerk training and ongoing plans.

This year the event will be at Headcorn Community Centre on Saturday from 9.30am. Speakers include Maidstone council leader Chris Garland and representatives from KCC and Rural Kent.

## Charity night Rod tribute

A CHARITY is hosting a fundraising dinner with musical entertainment from a Rod Stewart tribute act to help raise funds.

Hi Kent, which works with the deaf and hard-of-hearing, has hired Paul Metcalfe to belt out the veteran rock singer's top hits while customers tuck in to an Indian and Thai buffet.

The evening, on Tuesday, December 15, is being held at Raja of Kent, Union Street, and is £25 a head.

To book, call Hi Kent on 01622 691151.

## Theatre team in full flow

THE county town's most popular theatre is using its talents to engage youngsters in the importance of hydration.

The Hazlitt Arts Centre has teamed up with Water Wellpoint to create a workshop for four to 11-year-olds to teach them about the benefits of drinking water.

During the session children take a journey through a youngster's body, meeting characters along the way.

The team has already taken its teaching methods to Lamberhurst St Mary's School, just outside Goudhurst.

## Anthony's work pays off

A MAIDSTONE man has been honoured at a national ceremony for overcoming his disability to secure full-time work.

Anthony Webster, 20, received the Roger Sterba Memorial Award at a ceremony held by employment charity Tomorrow's People.

The determined young man, who suffers from cystic fibrosis, won the recognition for pushing himself through his disadvantage to gain work experience at a school, where he is now a valued member of staff.

Amazing paper art  
that's a cut above

■ BY ANNA WHITE

AN EXHIBITION solely inspired by paper has proved a big hit with art-lovers.

The Cut it Out collection, on show at Maidstone Museum, features the work of seven contemporary artists, who have all transformed pieces of paper into masterpieces.

The exhibit has drawn more than 3,000 visitors in just under four weeks.

Maidstone council's cabinet member for leisure and culture, Cllr Brian Moss, said he was delighted with the response.

He said: "The exhibition is really popular. It is unusual in that everything is based on paper and you'd be amazed by what can be done with just a piece of paper."

As an exclusive media partner for Cut it Out, during the coming months Yourmaidstone will take an in-depth look at each of the seven artists and their work, including, Ciara Healy.

A main influence for the 30-year-old's work is butterflies, which she creates delicate replicas of from vintage book pages and then pins them to surfaces in a scattered pattern.

The Irish-born artist, who lives and has a studio in Groombridge, near Tunbridge Wells, said: "I first discovered my passion for art when I was two years old."

"I found a permanent marker pen and decided to redecorate the walls of the entire house. The inspiration behind my work has changed since then. Now I focus on nature, nostalgia



**ON THE WING:** One of Ciara Healy's many beautiful and delicate butterfly designs in the exhibition

and its presentation in the museum space."

The artist had the chance to visit the museum in Earl Street before the exhibition opened last month, when she helped a group of youngsters create a giant collage, which is also included in the Cut it Out exhibition.

In contrast to Ms Healy's delicate butterflies in the exhibition is the strong geometric work of Stefan Saffer, who transforms paper into structures by folding it repeatedly and adding his own personal touch with a splash of colour.

The Berlin-based artist uses shadow to emphasise the depth and dimension of his unframed pieces, which are often perched on pins and pulled away from the wall to allow the various shades of light to merge with his work.

Even though his work appears sturdy, he



**FRAMING SHADOWS:** Berlin-based Stefan Saffer's art-work is full of detail and delicacy

does include smaller pieces in his collection with show detail and delicacy, revealing the fragility of the paper. Cut it Out will run until February 7.

## Seventy Santas a-sprinting earn thousands



MORE than 70 sprinting Santas completed a Father Christmas fun run, raising more than £4,500 for charity.

The festive runners completed the 2.5km course in aid of the Heart of Kent Hospice.

London 2012 Olympics hopeful Martin Brockman and Bearemy Bear, from the Build-a-Bear Factory, helped start the run at Fremlin Walk, Maidstone.

Later in the day nearly 1,000 people attended the hospice's annual Light up a Life remembrance service, where hundreds of

candles were lit in memory of loved ones. The service included readings by hospice chaplain Mike Hayes and Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Peter Parvin.

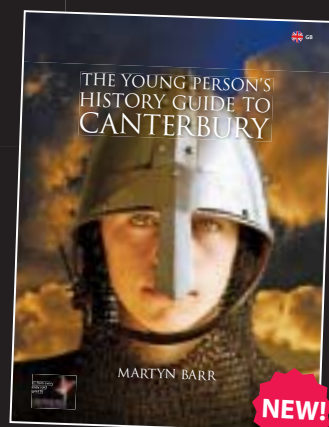
Carols were sung by the town's Community Gospel Choir before a blessing of the Book of Remembrance and a Christmas lights switch-on.

Another Light up a Life service was held at the Aylesford Priory on Sunday, with performances from pupils at St Francis, Allington and Harrietsham primary schools.

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**BACK IN CUSTODY:** Convicted killer Jane Andrews was traced to the M20 Premier Inn after a tip-off

# Hotel tip-off puts royal aide killer back behind bars

A CONVICTED killer is back behind bars after fleeing from a Maidstone prison and spending three days on the run.

Former royal aide Jane Andrews absconded from HMP East Sutton Park at 7pm on Sunday, November 22, sparking a huge police manhunt.

The 42-year-old was captured at the Premier Inn at the M20 junction eight services at 3am last Wednesday, following a tip-off from the taxi driver who picked her up at 12.30am and drove her to the hotel.

## Condemned

Andrews was found with parents David, 82, and June, 79, and her brother Jonathan, 44.

The convict, who was an aide to the Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson for nine years, was jailed in 2001 for bludgeoning and stabbing boyfriend Tom Cressman to death after he refused to marry her.

Tom's brother, Rick, has condemned the prison service for moving the killer into the open jail in Maidstone less than nine years into her life sentence and called for Justice Secretary Jack Straw to step down.

He told a national newspaper: "No special efforts were made to control her or watch her and before you know, she is over the wall."

"All this would have been totally avoidable if the authorities had assessed the situation properly and realised they needed to keep someone who committed a premeditated, brutal murder in secure accommodation

■ BY ANNA WHITE

more than eight-and-a-half years. "Jack Straw should be hanging his head in shame. It's appalling."

Mid Kent and Faversham MP Hugh Robertson has also expressed concern and demanded answers from Home Secretary Alan Johnson.

Police were called to the Premier Inn after officials received a tip-off about Andrews' whereabouts from a friend of the taxi driver who drove her parents to Maidstone from their home town of Grimsby, Lincs.

The Sun newspaper reported cabbie Darren Auckland, 40, was asked by the family to stop outside a Maidstone graveyard at 12.30am, on Wednesday, and was "stunned" when the mud-caked former royal dresser stepped out of the bushes.

## Security

The family asked Mr Auckland to drive them back to Grimsby, but he refused and instead dropped them off at the hotel – just six miles from the prison – at 2am.

The taxi driver, who has given a statement to the police, told the newspaper: "I'm no hero. I don't take delight in any of this. They don't deserve grief. They are lovely people. I hope things turn out OK for them."

Andrews is being held at the high security Holloway prison in London and is likely to face criminal charges for absconding. She could be given a longer sentence as punishment.

## It's a wrap – Grant's parcel duty

TORY hopeful Helen Grant has been made an honorary member of a community support group for families with loved ones serving in Afghanistan.

The parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and the Weald accepted the honour from the Troopers' Mums' Support Group, set up by Cranbrook resident Ann Cook.

Since 2007 the group has sent hundreds of Christmas parcels to troops and this year Mrs Grant was asked to wrap the 500th box – which is heading to Ms Cook's son in Helmand Province.



**BOXING CLEVER:** Helen Grant, centre, with Ann Cook and pupils from Angley School

## yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

### Anniversary Cuba bike ride

AIR ambulance service bosses are urging businesses to support them on their 350km trip across Cuba to mark the service's 20th anniversary.

The team from the Kent Air Ambulance Trust aims to cycle from the capital Havana to the town of Trinidad within five days in November, next year, to raise £20,000 for the charity. Some companies have already pledged to support the team, including £550 from Icom, which supplies the charity's broadband and phone systems, but the group needs more help to reach their target.

KAA's Beverley Thorne said: "We are so chuffed with the amount that has come so far. It's amazing. The more pledges we get, the better."

The team is made up of eight members from across the organisation. To donate visit [www.justgiving.com/teamkaatcyclecuba.com](http://www.justgiving.com/teamkaatcyclecuba.com).

### Village's new dimension

BUDDING architects who spent hours building parts for a 3D model of their community have finally seen the finished product.

Year four pupils from Bellwood Community Primary School made detailed houses, trees and roads for a 3D model of Park Wood, which will be used for a project to improve the village.

The council-run Planning for Real initiative is aimed at allowing residents to give their views and suggest changes for the area.

The pupils were all awarded with certificates for their hard work.

### Clubs' office party offer

THREE nightclubs will host office Christmas parties for ten lucky companies.

Liquid, Envy and JJ's, all in the Lockmeadow complex, are giving £10,000 of festive parties to small and medium-sized businesses.

Winning entrants will receive free admission, a reserved area, party goodies, buffet for all guests, DJ and a glass of Christmas bubbly. The only catch is each party must have a minimum of 100 guests.

The offer ends on December 30. To enter, call Jade Underwood on 01622 679769.

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## Cricket is at art of former captain

FORMER England cricket captain Michael Vaughan has combined his love of sport and art by creating a unique collection of work that is on display at Bluewater.

But unlike most other artists, the 35-year-old 2005 Ashes winner produced his art by ditching the conventional paintbrush and picking up a bat and ball.

Vaughan calls the unusual technique 'artballing' and he bowls or bats a paint-covered cricket ball – just as he would on the pitch – onto a canvas placed on the floor or wall.

The style, known as abstract expressionism or action painting, was popular between the 1940s and 1960s and made famous by artist Jason Pollock.

Vaughan – who retired from first-class cricket in June – said his paintings capture defining moments in his career and the drama of the much-loved sport.

"At first it was a bit of fun," he said. "But the more I got into it, the more I started to take it seriously."

"I began collecting contemporary art about four years ago and then about 12 months ago one of my friends told me about Martina Navratilova was using her tennis balls and racket to paint."

Vaughan decided to do the same and escaped to a warehouse in Yorkshire shortly after retirement to create his masterpieces. His work has already caught the eye of industry experts who have billed it as "Damien Hurst meets Jackson Pollock".

Vaughan said: "The paintings show defining moments in my career. One is the moment we won the Ashes in 2005."

To see Vaughan's four limited edition prints go to Castle Galleries in Bluewater. Prices start at under £300. Visit [www.castlegalleries.com](http://www.castlegalleries.com).

# Motorists are 'cash cow' for Town Halls

■ BY MARIJKE COX

MOTORISTS' groups have accused councils of using motorists as a "cash cow" after town halls raked in more than £6 million in parking fines over the past year.

Findings published by the TaxPayers' Alliance and the Drivers' Alliance showed the total collected by Kent's 12 district and borough councils, and Medway, in 2008-09 was £6,399,532.

The fines are levied for people parking illegally, such as on double yellow lines, and drivers who overstay on parking meters.

Fines range from £50-70 and are halved if drivers pay up within two weeks.

Despite this being £900,999 less than the previous year, representatives from driving groups slammed the authorities for using motorists as a "money-making scheme" through on-street and off-street parking enforcement.

Ian Taylor, spokesman for the Association of British Drivers in Kent, said councils are using the county's motorists as a cash cow.

"They've had the sense not to push it further in the recession and we're thankful that some councils have frozen charges and offered free parking in some areas. But local authorities should not use fines to make money."

"We know they are worried about government grants being cut and so they are obviously concerned about funding, but at the same time they can't rely on motorists to bring money in."

"We understand people can't just park where they like and block roads and entrances, there has to be a penalty for that – I personally think perhaps the police should enforce it."

"But councils use these penalties as part of their crusade to curtail car use and bring in funds. They estimate how much they will make each year out of penalty charge notices and use it as part of their budget."

"If everyone became a law-abiding citizen I wonder what this would do to their finances."

Mr Taylor said part of the problem is the high charges councils levy in car parks across the county.

"In some cases it's cheaper to park in commercial car parks," he said. "I live in Dover and the car park behind the Charlton Centre is commercially run and charges are almost half the price of the council-run car parks."

Councils say the cash raised from fines is used to pay for parking services.

Figures showed Maidstone, Medway

## COUNCIL PARKING PENALTIES YEAR ON YEAR

COUNCIL	FINES 07/08 (£)	FINES 08/09 (£)
Ashford	348,516	271,800
Dartford	267,795	274,139
Dover	487,164	390,884
Canterbury	645,264	663,362
Gravesham	439,002	402,613
Maidstone	960,851	859,619
Medway	1,195,272	1,048,704
Sevenoaks	238,192	257,699
Shepway	369,037	451,668
Swale	307,565	256,631
Thanet	431,230	318,199
Tonbridge & Malling	385,438	261,526
Tunbridge Wells	1,225,205	942,688
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£7,300,531</b>	<b>£6,399,532</b>

Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells councils brought in the most money from parking penalties.

However, Maidstone, Medway and Tunbridge Wells have seen a drop in the number of fines issued in the past year. But Canterbury City Council has risen by £18,098.

Parking services manager Clive Metcalfe denied that Canterbury council was using motorists to make money. It is grossly inaccurate to suggest that issuing of penalty charge notices is designed for this purpose.

"Penalty charge notices the council distribute have fallen since the council took over the service in 2000, along with the number of staff engaged in the process."

### Recession

"They are only issued when a contravention of parking traffic regulations occur."

He stated that money recovered from on-street parking fines contributed to the cost of providing the parking service which is carried out on behalf of Kent County Council.

He added: "Income from off-street parking fines is controlled and managed by the city council and goes towards its general revenue account. It's not a money spinner."

"Our enforcement officers do not have targets. The process is designed to ensure that traffic flows freely through the district without causing a hindrance, obstruction or damage."

A spokesman from Sevenoaks District Council, where figures showed a rise of £19,507 in fines since last year, said they are issued to

people who have chosen to park illegally.

"The council has a legal duty to enforce parking restrictions which have been introduced to improve road safety, reduce traffic jams and keep our roads clear for emergency vehicles."

"In recent months, the council has in fact been asked by communities to step up parking enforcement and, in accordance with their wishes, we have increased parking patrols in these areas by as much as 50 per cent."

"Local councils, business groups and residents have told us the additional enforcement has drastically improved parking problems in their communities."

He added: "It is difficult to compare income between 2007-08 and 2008-09, as the pricing structure for penalty charge notices was significantly altered by central government during this period."

"The cost for less serious offences was reduced, while the cost of more serious contraventions saw an increase."

"The income generated by penalty charge notices helps to pay towards the council's parking services."

These include payments for civil enforcement officers and putting restrictions and parking bays in place.

But Peter Roberts, chief executive of the Drivers' Alliance, insists parking enforcement across the UK has become a massive money-making industry.

"We are seeing unscrupulous and target driven enforcement of parking laws where the penalties far outweigh the offence," he said.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### DR KERSTIN MEY



**Q** Tell us a bit about yourself.

**A** I was born in Berlin, Germany, and educated there. After graduating in art and German language and literature at MA level, I had the opportunity to conduct research on sculptural aesthetics and obtained a PhD. This period of my life coincided with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the German Unification in October 1990. By then I held a lecturer position at Humboldt University Berlin but sought opportunities to work abroad. This came my way in 1992 in the form of a position to teach German as a foreign language at the University of Warwick. Since 1996 I have held a number of positions in fine arts in UK universities.

**Q** How did you get into your chosen specialism?

**A** From an early age I liked to draw and paint but I also had an interest in literature and languages. However, I soon realised that I had a special interest in art theory and aesthetics that evolved from contemporary art practices. The broad grounding I have received through my education has enabled me to work across and in-between disciplines often in collaborative set-ups with other researchers or external partners. It has also enabled me to bring together an interest in writing, editing and publishing with curatorial interventions, events' organisation and the development of partnerships for research and exchange.

**Q** You have recently been appointed as the new director of research and enterprise at the University for the Creative Arts, what does your role involve?

**A** I have a specific portfolio of responsibilities that include the facilitation of the institution's research culture and strategy. One of the central issues for UCA is to achieve Research Degree Awarding Powers (the ability to confer the title of PhD) as well as the further establishment of fruitful exchanges and collaborations with business and industries, with the public sector and voluntary organisations. The expertise of staff at UCA in art, design, new media and architecture is significant for the regions and the national creative and digital economy.

**Q** What improvements would you like to make to UCA's research and enterprise sector?

**A** There is immense talent and capacity for research and enterprise at UCA and I would like to see this benefiting the development of the regional and national economy, contribute to the wellbeing of communities and support the improvement of qualities of life. I am convinced that the creative arts are more important than ever to stimulate the imagination in everyday life and as a life-long learning tool.

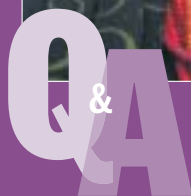
**Q** Can you give us some examples of businesses and communities of interest which you would like to see UCA work with to develop the department?

**A** There is an ongoing interest of working with regional businesses and international indus-

tries for mutual gain where the expertise of UCA staff can be employed to support the development of innovative products, services and experiences. There are great opportunities for instance in converging traditional skills and crafts with emergent digital technologies developments. It remains important to connect with communities at home and abroad to bring about change as has been demonstrated by The Gateway School of Fashion, spearheaded by Sheelagh Wright and Karen Millen, which has seen several UCA Rochester academics involved in providing a fashion education to young people affected by HIV in South Africa. Examples that aim at fostering creative talent and entrepreneurship amongst graduates and in the communities are Kent and Medway Universities for Business and Enterprise and the Surrey based Creative Advantage initiatives. To build resilience if not sustainability into such initiatives remains an ambitious aim.

**Q** How does research and enterprise benefit the UCA students?

**A** Research and enterprise are an integral part of the university's core activities, and there is a demonstrated mutuality with the institution's strength in teaching and learning in the creative arts. Working with communities and businesses has brought about opportunities for students to become engaged in commercial projects, to gain vital professional experience.



The University of Arts' newly appointed director of research and enterprise talks to **Anna White** about what her latest role involves and how she hopes to improve the department and futures of the students

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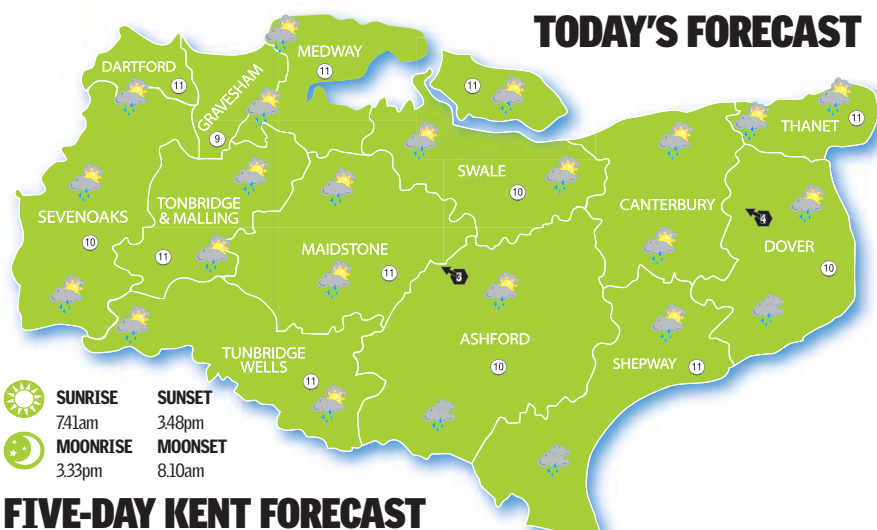
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## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	2:37pm	6.3m
	Sunday	3:26pm	6.2m
Dover	Saturday	12:46pm	6.6m
	Sunday	1:42pm	6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:42pm	7.8m
	Sunday	1:28pm	7.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:16pm	5.1m
	Sunday	2:12pm	4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	2:27pm	5.9m
	Sunday	3:16pm	5.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	2:37pm	5.4m
	Sunday	3:26pm	5.3m

## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	6°C	Madrid	9°C
Athens	19°C	New York	11°C
Barcelona	13°C	Paris	7°C
Beijing	11°C	Rome	18°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	21°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	6°C	Tokyo	10°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	10°C
Hong Kong	22°C	Warsaw	7°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	14°C

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	8°C	11°C	9°C	9°C	10°C	Gravesend	7°C	11°C	10°C	10°C	10°C
Canterbury	8°C	11°C	9°C	9°C	9°C	Maidstone	7°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	10°C
Chatham	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	10°C	Ramsgate	8°C	11°C	9°C	9°C	9°C
Dartford	7°C	11°C	10°C	10°C	10°C	Rochester	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	10°C
Dover	8°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	8°C	Sevenoaks	6°C	9°C	8°C	7°C	8°C
Faversham	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	10°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	10°C
Folkestone	8°C	10°C	9°C	9°C	8°C	Tonbridge	7°C	11°C	9°C	9°C	10°C
Gillingham	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	10°C	Tun Wells	7°C	11°C	9°C	9°C	10°C



**DIG IT:** Cllr Greer and Cllr Moss (left to right, holding wheelbarrows) with the green-fingered volunteers

## Team's Growing Concern for Maidstone's culture

A GREEN army has been mobilised to help restore a town centre heritage area.

The unit of volunteers is made up of recruits from the mmch charity, which supports those with a learning disability, autism or mental health issues.

The green-fingered team will spend the next few weeks tidying up the area surrounding the Archbishops' Palace and Tyrwhitt-Drake Museum as part of their Growing Concern scheme.

Philippa Clark, who is leading the Growing Concern team, said: "This is a great opportunity for the people we support to get a taste of work and get experience. We are all having a great time."

The project has been backed by Maidstone cabinet members for regeneration and for leisure and culture, Malcolm Greer and Brian Moss.

Councillor Moss said: "This work will bring back to life a Maidstone gem. The improvements include the installation of new railings, tree maintenance work and planting."

And councillor Greer added: "This is an imaginative solution to improve Maidstone's cultural offerings and to help people with learning disabilities get the experience they need to get a foot on the employment ladder."



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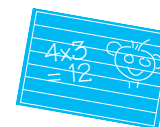
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## BREAK TIME

## Stylish steps into corporate world

A GROUP of fashion-minded business students have put on a glamorous catwalk event in aid of charity.

The A Level pupils at Invicta Grammar School hosted the fashion show with a credit crunch theme, with the organisers working to a tight budget.

The event was part of the students' business studies coursework, which requires them to work with staff members and companies to develop links with the corporate world.

The evening, on Monday, November 23, also included a raffle, refreshments and clothes sale.

The fashion show, supported by volunteers of all ages, aimed to raise £400 for the Heart of Kent Hospice, in Aylesford.

## Poster competition has safety message

PUPILS from two primary schools have been invited to design banners to promote road safety in their community.

Students from Kings Hill School, in Crispin Way, and the Discovery School, in Discovery Drive, will try to create the most effective road safety poster and the winning design will be displayed on a banner outside their school.

The competition is the idea of PC Nick Stevens, the neighbourhood officer for Kings Hill. He said: "The competition coincides with National Road Safety Week and gives young people the chance to think about how pedestrians, cyclists and motorists can stay safe."

# Murderer revealed as pupils take on investigative role

■ BY ANNA WHITE

SCHOOL children ditched their usual uniform to dress up as characters involved in a murder mystery as they tried to work out 'who-dunnit?'

The year six pupils at Sutton Valence Preparatory were able to use their imagination and detective skills when they took part in a day-long murder investigation.

Their mission was to discover who killed Baroness Arabella Furness – also known as the school's head of English Clare Thomas.

After listening to the reading of the will and testament, deputy head Alexia Bracewell, dressed as Freddie Farr – the Baroness' lawyer – revealed her client had died under the most suspicious circumstances.

Inspector Herring, aka English teacher Steven Bird, was now investigating the case and needed the children's help to reveal the murderer among them.

The youngsters dressed up as a variety of characters, including dodgy dealer Arfur Dailly, news reporter Samantha Snoop and famous pianist Ivory Tinkle.

The pupils spent the day questioning each other and examining the Baroness's belongings before coming to the conclusion that acting head Jane Evans, playing the part of Pinky Beasts, was guilty of the crime.

The aim of the day was to encourage and help the students with their creative writing.

Mrs Bracewell said: "This event was a great success and was highly effective in assisting



**CRIME CREW:** Pupils took on different characters to investigate a murder mystery in a creative writing exercise

the year six children with their writing of detective stories.

"While most children are able to write a standard story with a structured beginning, middle and end, it is quite a different skill to enter into a specific genre, which incorporates its own characteristics."

To help the youngsters prepare for their inspector roles they watched a variety of crime

solving clips, including Agatha Christie, Nancy Drew and Columbo. They also read detective stories.

Mrs Bracewell added: "They considered all the features of detective novel writing and were also able to experience the genre."

"Primary education is about giving children experiences, to live learning, not just work through a standard text book."

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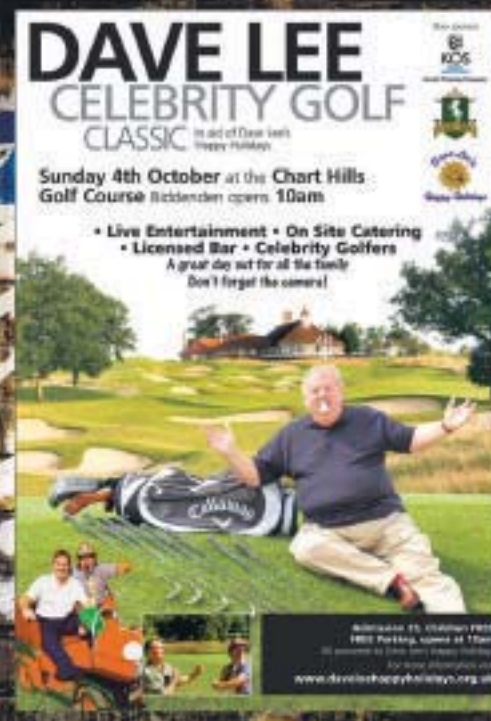
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# Youth leader calls for curriculum change

■ BY MARIJKE COX

**POLITICS** should be part of the schools' national curriculum, according to the leader of the Kent Youth County Council.

Rhys George, 18, told Yourpapers that education was key for young people to have a better understanding of the political system. "We are the next generation," he said.

"It's so important that young people understand what's going on so they have a voice."

"The youth council has been pushing for political education to be on the syllabus at school for year seven pupils and upwards."

## Support

"We've got government ministers' support and have been speaking to people to see what we can do."

His comments came as the newly elected members of the youth council were announced yesterday, naming the young people who will represent youngsters across Kent.

There were 106 candidates battling it out for the 48 seats that were up for grabs and more than 30,000 people were expected to vote.

Last year, around 30,000 people turned out to the polling stations, but this year, with the highest number of candidates standing ever, it was predicted to be even more.

There were four seats available to represent each of the 12 district or borough councils and candidates could stand for election in the area they live or where they go to school or college.

The youth council is made up of 48 elected members aged between 11 and 18-years-old, who meet 10 times a year in the council chambers at County Hall in Maidstone.

Committee meetings are also held throughout the year to discuss ongoing campaigns and issues.

They work closely with officers and members of Kent County Council, letting them know about the concerns of the county's young people.

Members of the youth council also make up the UK Youth Parliament to take county matters to the national forum.

Already they have brought in a travel scheme called the Freedom Bus Pass which provides unlimited travel for young people in Kent for one payment per year of £50.

It proved so successful in east Kent it was rolled out across the whole county last year.

Rhys said: "We work closely with members of KCC and the leader Paul Carter who helps us with our aims."

"The youth council is apolitical though so we try and avoid getting too deep into politics when making decisions."

From next year, the youth council will also have more control over its own budget.

Currently, members are invited by different projects and budget holders within KCC to represent the views of young people and recommend how money should be spent.

But they recently advised on KCC's overall budget which will be decided next February and the youth members' views will be presented as part of that decision-making process.

Rhys said he is excited about the year ahead.

"I was elected a year ago and it's been really good fun," he said. "I'm looking forward to seeing some new faces – it will change the dynamics of the group."

"The new members will be really eager to go out and do things straight away."

Rhys, who lives on the Isle of Sheppey, said he always had an interest in politics, thanks

to his family.

"I was lucky they made sure I understood politics and what was going on in the country," he said.

"But not everyone has this. This is why we're pushing for political education at school."

"We're also trying to get the voting age lowered to 16 so young people have more of a voice."



**RALLY:** leader of the Kent Youth County Council, Rhys George, is campaigning to make politics a compulsory subject

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**MAGIC:** Imelda Staunton starred alongside Daniel Radcliffe in Harry Potter

## Film star shows wild side in Kent

AWARD-winning Imelda Staunton has paid a visit to the University of Kent to celebrate the 20th anniversary of a wildlife institute.

The British star, who is famous for her many roles on stage and screen including Dolores Umbridge in the Harry Potter films, compered an evening of entertainment with her actor husband Jim Carter.

The pair are known for their love of wildlife and jumped at the chance of being involved with the celebrations for the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE).

DICE was founded in 1989 by Professor

Ian Swingfield OBE at the University of Kent and named after naturalist and TV presenter Gerald Durrell.

It offers students courses in conservation and biodiversity and gives them the chance to carry out research internationally.

Around 250 people attended the celebrations on Tuesday night.

Dr Susanna Paisley, honorary research fellow and DICE director of development, said she was thrilled with the turnout.

"Imelda and Jim did a fantastic job," she said.

"It really was a brilliant night which showed off what DICE is about."

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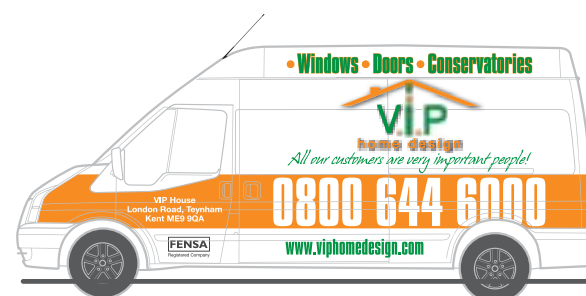
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# WIN Alvin and the Chipmunks goodies

ALVIN and the Chipmunks 2: The Squeakquel – out on the December 21 – brings back our favorite furry brothers, Alvin, Simon and Theodore.

Because of a freak accident involving Alvin and Dave Seville, they go to live with Dave Seville's cool cousin Toby and must enroll in school, just like every other kid.

School presents new challenges to these rock stars, like dealing with peer pressure, school sports and, of course, girls.

By girls we mean the Chipettes, who are man-



aged by Ian Hawke, the Chipmunks' greedy former manager who wants to turn them into the next big thing. At the outset, there is a rivalry between the Chipettes and the Chipmunks, but in the end they realise that they make great friends and a great musical team. KOS Media, publishers of this news-

## VUE

paper, has managed to get hold of five great sets of Alvin and the Chipmunks merchandise, including an 'iPod hoodie', watch, fridge magnets, mini-recorder microphone and lots more.

Plus, Vue in Thanet has kindly offered tickets to see Alvin and the Chipmunks 2: The Squeakquel to the first prize-winner drawn.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry, on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number, to: Alvin and the Chipmunks competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is Thursday, December 10, 2009.

**Question: When does Alvin And The Chipmunks 2: The Squeakquel hit the big screens?**

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# yourmaidstoneblogger

Gary Wright questions whether giving aid to illegal immigrants in Calais is the right thing to do this winter



## Is Kent Refugee Help making a difficult situation even worse?

ARE we really doing the right thing taking blankets and clothes to illegal immigrants waiting to cross to the UK from Calais?

This coming weekend, volunteers from Kent Refugee Help will travel to Calais to hand out clothes, sleeping-bags and blankets to immigrants in the French port.

I believe we should be asking 'Why?'. Kent Refugee Help is a registered charity which helps people who have been detained at the Immigration Centre in Dover.

On the surface the idea of crossing the Channel to make sure the assembled migrants are able to survive the onset of winter can only be seen as a decent act of human kindness.

Volunteer Kate Adams points out that it is a 'humanitarian crisis' made worse since the French authorities in September tore down the wooded encampment area known as 'The Jungle' where up to 800 immigrants lived - waiting to smuggle themselves into Britain.

But in September the French government demonstrated it would play a part in breaking the illegal immigration chain that leads from Africa to Britain by making it more difficult to 'live' in Calais. So, why are British people going to Calais to help make it easier for illegal immigrants to stay there?

It is getting cold and the hand-out (funded with a United Nations grant and working with the No Borders Network) has been timed to coincide with Christmas - which will mean little to most would-be asylum-seekers.

These people are in France already, a fine civilised country. And if they care to retrace their steps, the Mediterranean coast is far milder at this time of year. I was in Calais a month ago and there was still plenty of evidence of young people being corralled by police and fed by volunteers.

And do not forget, the people of Calais have to suffer being the assembly point for immigrants with no interest in their community.

Sangatte was where 'asylum seekers' assembled between 1999 and 2002, just a few miles away. There the French Red Cross ran a camp for the assembled mass.

I visited it in 2001. Inside the giant hangar

it was seething - overflowing lavatories and overcrowding. I learned the people all had a common dream: a better life in Britain.

A lad in his late teens shared his heart-wrenching story of a tortuous four-week journey across two continents, hiding in ships and trucks, being met and moved on to the next leg thanks to \$10,000 paid by his father to people-traffickers. He was now just 22 miles from his goal. I understood his desperation.

But I also met people who lived in Sangatte, which has a population of just 800. They were outnumbered two-to-one by would-be asylum seekers. They were overwhelmed - and their homes, land and quality of life were, too. I understood their desperation.

I don't doubt the sincerity of Kent Refugee Help, but it needs to be careful. France, like the rest of the EU, wants asylum seekers to stay in the first safe country they reach and the chain of economic migration broken.

That means those organisations which rely on refugees for their work in Kent might be unnecessary. We must consider carefully whether we should be encouraging people to stay in Calais.

### GET IN TOUCH...

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, Simon Robinson, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk)

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## TALK TIME

### JAMES HOOPER

The owner of Fortify Café talks about how the vegetarian eatery started and being shortlisted for a top restaurant award



#### Tell us about how Fortify came about.

I'm vegetarian and trained as a chef in Yorkshire before moving to Rochester in 2005 where I started a café with a business partner. I sold some homemade food and customers made very positive noises about it, which gave me a huge buzz. In 2008 I sold my half of the business to set up an all-vegetarian and homemade food café.

#### What has the reaction been to Fortify?

I think we're still surprising and delighting our customers with our choice of food – even dedicated carnivores don't mind giving up meat when they see what's on offer.

#### How did you feel about Fortify making it onto the shortlist for the best vegetarian restaurant in Kent award?

I was surprised because when we were nominated we'd only been trading for about four-and-a-half months. It was a real boost and it told me that we were doing something that our customers liked.

#### What can the judges expect from their visit to Fortify?

Some lovely homemade vegetarian food in a relaxed and stylish setting, from a roasted Mediterranean vegetable lasagne to a delicious slice of carrot cake. We're a café that loves to serve homemade food and the fact that we're a vegetarian café is secondary really – one comment in our feedback book read 'Thank you for convincing my boyfriend that every meal doesn't have to contain meat'.

## YOUR LETTERS



### Was prison too open for royal aide?

I want to congratulate the Kent Police on catching Jane Andrews so quickly. However, many of my constituents are asking why a convicted murderer was placed in an open prison so early in her sentence – and I want The Home Secretary Alan Johnson to provide an explanation.

Hugh Robertson, Mid Kent and Faversham MP, by email

### STOPKIG still needs public support

A big thank you from the STOPKIG team to all those who have attended the public inquiry so far. It does make a difference to have your support, and the Planning Inspector is well aware of the public opposition to KIG. Please keep it up.

The inspectors have yet to do a site visit of the area that would be impacted by the development,



## COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk) website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk) is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

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and so we ask that you continue to refresh any tired or damaged posters you see. We have a good supply of new posters and they don't have the same impact when not on display. Hopefully, after this is all over, we will never

need them again.

Some good news: the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) has withdrawn its letter of support for KIG. This is very encouraging. However, we are not out of the woods yet, and

although our optimism remains high, we still have quite a task on our hands to defeat KIG.

We have now taken our message to Gordon Brown, and actress Jenny Agutter is also supporting our campaign.

Please continue to support us by displaying those posters, and by attending the public inquiry as often as you can, from now until the inquiry ends, if possible.

STOPKIG Team, by email

## Use must be made of empty homes

Shelter, the national campaign for the homeless, says there are now one million empty homes in the UK. Building societies, however, complain about a shortage of properties for sale.

In Kent and Medway, there is a minimum of about 20,000 empty homes. The number of persistently empty retail and industrial estate sites in Kent and Medway is uncounted. The National Week of Action on Empty Homes was 23-27 November.

The Government says we need more new homes in Kent and Medway. But more than 19,600 homes were empty according to last year's figures, and numbers have risen in the recession. There are more than 1,000 homes in Medway alone which have been empty for more than six months.

The Government also says there were 784,000 empty properties in England alone in 2008. Shelter states the current figure for the UK is now about one million, while building societies allege there is a shortage of property for sale nationally.

Despite efforts by the Kent Empty Homes Initiative and the

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No Use Empty website, which tries to bring commercial properties into use, there is still a general failure to make use of our existing built environment to meet housing needs.

The construction jobs which could be sustained over a period of years putting Kent and Medway's empty properties into use would doubtless be considerable. And so is the lack of imagination on the part of the Government, which insists on targets for new homes in Kent and Medway.

Steve Dawe  
Kent Green Party spokesman  
by email

## Failed freight trains worsen rail commute

Having experienced one of the worst periods of service on Southeastern since Connex lost the franchise, I wonder whether the proponents of either of the two rail-freight terminal schemes ever catch a train.

Twice in the past five days I have seen my two-hour-each-way commute from West Malling to Marylebone severely extended as a result of failed freight trains being run on the line from Ashford to London during the height of the morning rush-hour.

If either, or both, of the proposed developments at Bearsted or Borough Green go ahead, how many more freight trains will be running and how many more delays will we see due to poorly maintained locomotives breaking down and blocking the line? I think we should be told.

Peter Stevens  
Sandown Road, West Malling  
by email

## Energy investment will reduce bills

For consumers threatened with rising energy bills, turning down the heating more and more is no solution. We all know that if homes are well-insulated, and have low energy appliances, bills can be reduced. Also, those who are able to invest in solar water-heating and solar panels will benefit from that investment.

Yet not only is the Government failing to lead on energy efficiency and renewable energy, it is also not doing enough to encourage the energy companies to invest in tackling climate change.

This has implications for EU-wide efforts to cut emissions and for our household finances. The UK's Office of the Energy Regulator (OFGEM) is calling for £200billion of energy

investment in the UK in the next few years, and it is critical that this is in energy efficiency and renewables – not in expensive and highly polluting nuclear power that the Government currently favours and which each one of us will end up subsidising via higher energy bills.

Caroline Lucas, Member of the European Parliament for Kent and Medway  
by email

## Help guide dogs have a happy Christmas

Guide Dogs is celebrating Christmas in style with the launch of a fabulous virtual-gifts website and needs support.

You can choose from virtual "dog-e-gifts" for every budget, knowing any purchase will help the charity improve the lives of visually-impaired people across the country.

For just £13 you can buy Christmas dinner for 10 hard-working guide dog puppies, £137 will buy a guide dog puppy all the kit it needs to start at training school or for £20 you can buy that essential dog-e purchase – poo bags!

Visit [www.guidedog-e-gifts.org.uk](http://www.guidedog-e-gifts.org.uk) to see the full range today.

James Gaubert,  
Dog-e-gifts co-ordinator for London and the South East

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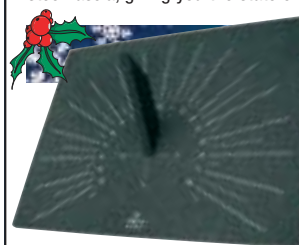
Synchronised to the moon's daily cycle the shortwalk time and tide clock incorporates an innovative and convenient guide to tides.

Simply set the tide hand to your favourite beach or estuary, then throw away your tide table! The hand is synchronised to the moon's daily cycle and rotates every 12 hours and 25 minutes around the hand spun solid stainless steel fascia, giving you the state of the tide at a glance.



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## yourleisure

# George of the jungle takes on panto role

Star Trek legend follows in footsteps of pal Joe Swash

### ALADDIN

Friday, December 11 to Sunday, January 3  
Central Theatre, Chatham

A VERY special star will beam down to Earth to appear in the Central Theatre's panto.

Hot on the heels of his great friend and I'm a Celebrity... co-star Joe Swash, George Takei will be entertaining Medway audiences over Christmas in Aladdin.

The former Star Trek actor will play the Emperor of China in the festive extravaganza, alongside Kent favourite Shaun Williamson and Phil Gallagher, otherwise known as CBeebies' Mister Maker, who is originally from Chatham.

Takei became famous as Mr Sulu in the long-running sci-fi saga and won new fans when he appeared on the ITV reality show, I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here last year. During his stay in the jungle, Takei won over viewers with his placid nature and was dubbed 'Gorgeous George' by Swash, the eventual winner.

It was Swash who persuaded Takei to tread the boards again, after he appeared in the Central Theatre's pantomime last year.

"I was back in England earlier this year and had dinner with Joe," Takei said. "He told me about the great experience he had and urged me to consider doing panto again."

"Joe raved about the wonderful audiences and the fun he had with the other actors. I was intrigued by the idea, but I had no idea that fate would have me following right in his footsteps, directly to the Central Theatre. I'm really looking forward to my first visit to Medway."

Also receiving top billing is Shaun Williamson, who rose to fame as Barry Evans in EastEnders and became something of a comedy icon following his role in Ricky Gervais' hit comedy, Extras. He has been extraordinarily busy ever since the first series aired in 2005 and recently filmed a brief cameo for Gervais' latest movie, The Invention of Lying.

Williamson returns to the Central Theatre to play Abanazar, following an absence of five years. He plays the villain to Phil Gallagher's Aladdin as they both search for the magic lamp and its genie who can grant wishes.

Gallagher presents Mister Maker, the arts and crafts show for under-sevens.

Also joining the cast are regulars Paul Burling as Wishee Washee and Claire Huckle as Princess Jasmine.

Ticket prices start at £12.50 for adults and £8.50 for children.

To book call the box office on 01634 338338 or log on to [www.medwaypanto.co.uk](http://www.medwaypanto.co.uk).



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## COMEDY CLUB

Wednesday, December 2  
Exchange Studio, Maidstone



THREE top comedy talents will be aiming to tickle funny bones at the Comedy Club tonight.

Jimmy McGhie is one of the comedy scene's most exciting new talents whose career got off to a flying start when he reached the final of prestigious comedy competition, So You Think You're Funny?, with only 10 gigs under his belt.

He also progressed to the semi-finals of the BBC New Talent competition and the final of the Amused Moose Star Search in 2005.

Also on the bill is Rob Rouse (pictured), who won So You Think You're Funny? in 1998 and went on to present or appear on numerous television programmes.

He was a co-host of the



original Friday Night Project on Channel 4 and a regular on shows such as 8 Out of 10 Cats, Grown Ups and Sean Lock's 15 Storeys High.

Matt Blaize is a trained actor who has won a number of awards since turning to

stand-up nearly a decade ago.

The show, which is for over-18s only, starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10.

To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or visit [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk).

## THAT'LL BE THE DAY

Friday, December 4  
Assembly Hall Theatre,  
Tunbridge Wells



GET into the party spirit when That'll Be The Day rocks and rolls into town with its Christmas Show.

As the UK's most successful touring rock 'n' roll production, the show entertains audiences all over the country with its infectious party vibe. Bring back the good old days and dance in the aisles to timeless festive classics, performed by a group of highly talented performers.

Comedy routines are interspersed with the hits to provide an evening of all-round entertainment. Whether you are stepping back in time to recall your youth or hearing these great tunes for the first time, That'll Be The Day is a great way to get the festive season underway.

The show stars Trevor,



Gary and the gang and has been entertaining audiences for 23 years, progressing from its early years as a seasonal show at a holiday camp to a well-established fixture on the theatre circuit. Audiences of all ages can

enjoy the timeless music in this feel-good production.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £22/£20. Book online at [www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.

## CHRISTMAS AT LEEDS CASTLE

Running until Thursday,  
December 24  
Leeds Castle, near Maidstone



ENJOY a magical Christmas when Leeds Castle hosts a variety of festive events throughout December.

Until Christmas Eve, rooms in the castle will be decorated in enchanting fairytale style.

Children can meet Father Christmas in his grotto on December 5 and 6, 12 and 13 and then daily from December 16 to Christmas Eve. Tickets, which must be pre-booked, cost £8 per child and include a gift. Call 01622 880008. A valid ticket to the castle is also required.

From December 20 to 23, Fairytale Christmas Tours will offer a magical experience as they take place in the evenings once other visi-



Picture: LEEDS CASTLE FOUNDATION

tors have left and feature fairytale characters.

Tickets cost £15/£10 and include mulled wine and a mince pie for adults, with hot chocolate and a mini Yule log for children. Young visitors can also meet Father Christmas for an £8 fee

including a gift. Availability is limited so book early by calling 01622 880008 to avoid disappointment. Key to the Castle tickets are not required for this event.

For more information call 01622 765400 or visit [www.leeds-castle.com](http://www.leeds-castle.com).

## MAIDSTONE LEISURE

### Send in your demos to find Band of Bands

THE hunt is on for Kent's best music talent as the 2010 Westcoast Band of Bands Competition opens.

Just 24 bands will be selected to compete at the Margate venue, with £1,000 on offer for the winner.

Send demos and band information to Band of Bands, Westcoast Bar, 3-5 King Street, Margate CT9 1DD by December 31. Demos will not be returned.

### Sing for your supper at restaurant music night

PERFORMERS can join well-known names at the All New Pizza Express Cabaret Night.

The Roger Lewin Trio is at the Maidstone restaurant on Thursday, with Sarah-Jane and Bonnie Hassell from JavaJam and Showstopping. Other entertainers who perform will receive their main course free.

Book at [www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk](http://www.pizzaexpresslive.co.uk) or call 0845 602 7017.

### Choir to entertain you at late-night shopping

LATE night shopping will have a festive air at Fremlin Walk in Maidstone on Thursday evening.

A Dickensian choir will provide a lovely atmosphere from 5pm and shoppers can keep the chills at bay with mulled wine and mince pies.

For more information visit [www.fremlinwalk.co.uk](http://www.fremlinwalk.co.uk) or call 01622 356580.

### Resistance fighters' mission on big screen

A GROUP of French servicewomen are given an emotional mission in the film, Les Femmes de l'Ombre.

A team of women and resistance fighters have to rescue a British army geologist and kill a German SS colonel on the brink of discovering the D-Day secret. The film, certificate 15, can be seen at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone at 8pm on Monday, screened by the Maidstone Film Society. For details visit [www.maidstone-film-society.org.uk](http://www.maidstone-film-society.org.uk).

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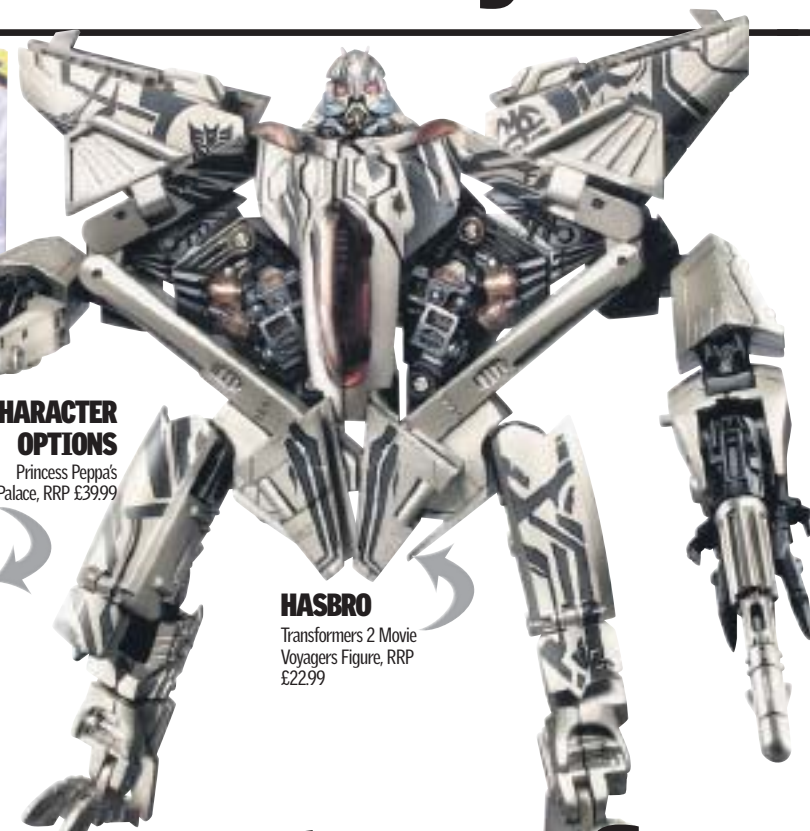
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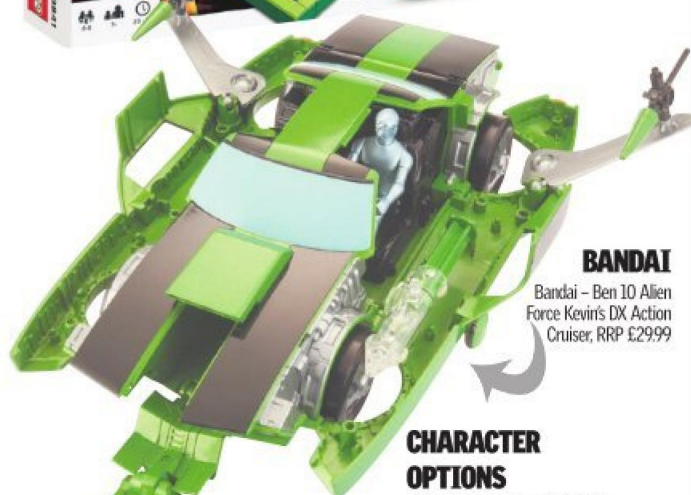


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## MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

### You won't be in a flap with these cooking tips

ROAST the perfect bird this Christmas with help from the John Lewis Foodhall at Bluewater.

The foodhall's specialists have come up with a Five Birds of Christmas cooking guide and Mark Goldberg, meat and fish specialist, will be giving a demonstration at 11am on Tuesday. There will also be tips on how to make the best gravy, the best glaze to use and what to serve with it.

For more information about Christmas events visit [www.bluewater.co.uk](http://www.bluewater.co.uk).

### Discover Dover's past with new historic book

THE changing face of Dover over the years is explored in Dover Past & Present, a visual guide to the town's history.

Written by Paul Wells and Jeff Howe, the book compares visions of Dover from yesteryear with contemporary images to provide a compelling illustration of the town's development over a period of more than 100 years.

Dover Past & Present is published by The History Press and priced at £12.99.

### Shopping evening has an Italian flavour

DISCOVER the best of Italian gastronomy by taking advantage of one of Carluccio's shopping evenings.

The stores in Tunbridge Wells, Fenwick of Canterbury and Bluewater will be hosting Christmas events at 5.30pm tomorrow and on Thursday, December 10. Shoppers will enjoy mulled wine and festive canapés and a 10 per cent discount on all purchases.

For more information visit [www.carluccios.com](http://www.carluccios.com).

### Hair's to charity with a Nicky Clarke product

WITH Nicky Clarke's new charity hair-styling product, women can look good and feel great at the same time.

The Nicky Clarke Love Women Ceramic Straightener not only provides expert styling, it also helps to raise awareness of Ovarian Cancer. Each pair is branded with the Ovarian Cancer Action logo and 10 per cent from the sale of each set goes directly to the charity.

The Nicky Clarke Love Women Ceramic Straightener costs £59.99 from Argos.

### Feel pampered this Christmas at a spa

PREPARE to dazzle at the Christmas party by indulging in a relaxing day at one of Kent's fabulous spas.

Heart of Kent has compiled a list of the county's best spas. The Royal Day Spa in Tunbridge Wells was voted the best day spa in the UK at the Professional Beauty Awards. See [www.royal-dayspa.co.uk](http://www.royal-dayspa.co.uk) or call 01892 616191. Other top spas are Champneys, Tunbridge Wells, Eastwell Manor, Ashford and Kalmora, Goudhurst. See [www.visitheartofkent.com](http://www.visitheartofkent.com).

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# yourmaidstonemusic

## This could be your chance to break into the business

BY TOM BETTS

A POPULAR auditions process is being re-opened to musicians who want to find a way into the music world.

The pathway into the music industry is a notoriously difficult one to navigate but Kent's Diverse Music is looking to increase their artist database and the chance for YOU to be a part of it is again on offer.

The Diverse Music Auditions aim to help the company put together a network of performers and musicians who want to try and get started in music.

The process began earlier this year and was a great success.

Many acts got in touch and visited the studios in Bilting, between Ashford and Canterbury, to work on new material.

The team have now decided to begin a second round of auditions and want artists to come forward and get involved.

It will give performers the chance to broaden their musical horizons and stand a chance of working with the team of creative director Malissa Whitehouse and producer Lee Gollidge.

Malissa has a wealth of industry experience, working with names such as Travis and George Michael, as well as Capital Radio.

She said: "We want to open this up for a second time to find more talented individuals who feel they have something to offer. The auditions are totally free and we hope people from all over Kent will get in touch."

Lee, a technical whizz who specialises in



**IN TUNE:** Singer/songwriter Phil Tong (left) and producer Lee Gollidge work on Phil's own material in the Diverse studio

rock, indie and alternative material, said: "There are so many people out there who want to break into music and who have a lot to offer but just don't know where to start."

"Contacting us could be a great move and we really hope for more talented people to come forward. We were really pleased with the response last time and are working with a lot of the artists now and making some great music. It's been really interesting and a lot of fun."

Hopefuls can also be added to the ever-expanding database which the team will be able to match singers with songwriters, musicians with bands and so on.

The project could lead to the formation of bands, new contacts and the benefit of the expertise of the industry experts who run the company.

Diverse creative director, Malissa Whitehouse said: "It's about opening up our doors to everyone so we find some great talent which we know is here in Kent. The possibilities are huge and we are excited about what the future holds. So get in touch."

Singers, songwriters, bands, rappers, rockers and everyone in between can apply to take part, with age or musical style no barrier.

To apply for an audition spot email Malissa@popsessions.co.uk.

Include a brief description of who you are, what you do and a picture of yourself and she will get back to you.

Within a matter of weeks you could find your ideas and material being worked on in a professional setting, helping you to take the first steps towards making your dream a reality.

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**BEAT IT:** Drummer Kyle Dusen, 11, shows off his skills at a Singathon in Greatstone



**LIVE AND KICKING:** Medway quartet UpCDownC perform on The Ether



### TOP FIVE CHART

- 1 Gristlefridge - Wanna Be Famous (from Whitstable)
- 2 White Eyes - We Are Tides (from Canterbury)
- 3 Shelta - Let's Talk (from Bexley)
- 4 The Phalanxes - Old Black (from Herne Bay)
- 5 Shelta - Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)

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## ON GENERAL RELEASE

### HARRY BROWN (18)



Sir Michael Caine plays a vigilante pensioner hunting down a gang of council estate thugs who killed his best friend. The 76-year-old is mesmerising as a war veteran with nothing to lose.

### THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (15)



George Clooney stars in The Men Who Stare at Goats, a deranged tale of US servicemen who are trained to become Jedi warriors, capable of killing with mind-power alone. Ewen McGregor co-stars.

### MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT (PG)



Hastily constructed from hundreds of hours of rehearsal footage, Kenny Ortega's documentary is a glowing tribute to the King Of Pop as he prepared for the most spectacular shows of his career.

# From The Office to the classroom for Freeman

■ BY KATE WHITING

MARTIN Freeman is camera shy. The impish dirty-blond actor is standing awkwardly in an old-fashioned hotel library flashing a non-smile towards a photographer.

"I wish I had that talent of being able to accept a photograph being taken," he says, apologetically.

Almost 10 years since the role of Tim Canterbury in The Office made him famous, Martin still doesn't behave like a 'celebrity'.

You'll never catch him being papped at a nightclub or parading his two children in Hello magazine.

"I don't like it when I see people do it. I don't think they should be put in prison or anything, I just think that's not for me because I've never wanted to trade on anything else other than work. I'd rather be at home."

Equally, he's not about to appear in a reality TV show.

"What I try to resist is doing stuff that I don't want to do, just to get on telly. But if someone says, 'Do you want to go to Detroit and make a thing about Motown?' I'll do it because I'm interested in that."

"Or 'Do you want to have your picture taken by David Bailey?' - I hated that as well," he laughs. "But you go, 'All right', because that won't happen very often. But if it's, 'Do you want Hello to come in and meet your children?' - 'No.'"

Whether he likes it or not, Martin, 38, is now firmly back in the spotlight, promoting his new film Nativity!

He plays frustrated-actor-turned-primary-teacher Mr Maddens, who is tasked with putting on the nativity play and beating the rival posh independent school to a



PLAY TIME: Martin Freeman stars in new film Nativity!

five-star review in the local paper.

But having been being dumped by his girlfriend Jennifer (Ashley Jensen) five years ago, Maddens hates Christmas.

Struggling to cope with the nativity task, he accidentally boasts to his rival that his ex-girlfriend, now a hotshot producer in LA, is coming over to film the nativity play.

Ignoring the old adage about never working with children and animals (in this case camels, donkeys and sheep), Martin threw himself into the film, which was conceived and directed by Debbie Isitt and entirely improvised.

"I loved the idea. I'd worked with Debbie before on Confetti and we had a meeting back in December 2007 about her next idea - she just described the outline of my character and his journey, and I was hooked."

Martin enjoyed being able to improvise.

## VIEW THIS PREVIEW

[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



"Debbie's general MO would be, 'We need to get from this point to this point by the end of the scene, away you go!'"

"How you get there is down to you, but you have to hit certain landmarks along the way. I think Debbie likes the uncertainty of what can happen in a moment."

Another draw of the film was the opportunity to work with Ugly Betty and Extras star Jensen. Martin admits the pair swapped notes on Ricky Gervais, their co-star in The Office and Extras.

"She was what you'd hope people should be who are doing something for a living that they really love. We should be quite nice, you shouldn't be a prick, because actually you're getting paid to do something you really enjoy."

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# yourmaidstone timeout

## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

-  **THE IMPRESSIONS SHOW WITH CULSHAW AND STEPHENSON**  
BBC One, 9.10pm, Saturday
-  **DOCTOR WHO: DREAMLAND**  
BBC Two, 10am, Saturday

TRICKY things to get right, impression shows.

Make a good fist of it and a unique place in the national consciousness could be yours, but mess it up and you look like a total saddo.

Jon Culshaw is not a supreme master of his art, like Rory Bremner, yet he has enough in his locker to justify a show of his own.

While he is less brutal than his rivals, his new effort, The Impressions Show With Culshaw And Stephenson, still manages to score a few hits.

While his attempts at Bruce Forsyth, Boris Johnson and Jonathan Ross fall short (why bother when others have them down so well?), others are very good indeed.

It may not be the best-known of his targets, but his Dominic Littlewood (the bald guy who crops up on The One Show dispensing money-saving tips) is inspired and could probably pass for the real thing.

The Michael Macintyre he does is also top-notch, while it's high time someone had a decent stab at David Cameron, who, as probably the next Prime Minister, must be the holy grail for the top impressionists in Britain.

Still, for every impression that hits the mark, such as Simon Cowell, there's another that falls woefully short, like his Adrian Chiles.

This is one of those shows that you can happily dip in and out of.

It's not a triumph, but if you enjoy this sort of thing, then tune in and be



**CARTOON TIME:** The BBC have now animated the time-travelling exploits of Doctor Who

prepared to snigger at much of what's on offer.

• The BBC is determined to wring every last drop of David Tennant out of Doctor Who before he pops his time-travelling clogs and makes way for the new guy, Matt Smith, next year.

He's been a tremendously popular incarnation of the Time Lord, if not one of the true greats, and now his animated persona has been brought to screens for children and geeks everywhere.

This animated series takes a lead from Star Wars: The Clone Wars in style if not in content. It's a harmless enough outing, but with the main series, The Sarah Jane Adventures, Torchwood and now this, you wonder if even die-hard Doctor Who fans are getting fed up with the overkill.

This six-part serial will be broadcast on Saturday – tell the kids.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A CREATIVE project comes to fruition, prompting you to look around for the next big opportunity. Establishing a steady routine should be your first order of business. This means you'll have to spend less time on pleasurable pursuits and devote more energy to work.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU could finally receive money you've been expecting for some time. Beware of spending it all in one place. If you're careful you can pay your bills and have a little left over for savings. Resist the urge to buy expensive luxury items, especially on credit.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)

A FRIENDSHIP could be coming apart at the seams and there's nothing you can do. It's better to cut ties than force a relationship that has lost its purpose. Although such behaviour is contrary to your loyal nature, you need to break things off, even at the risk of seeming heartless.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU may have to cancel personal plans at the last minute, which makes you angry. You've been looking forward to this outing for some time, but a financial shortage requires you to find more work. A job opportunity related to teaching or writing is worth taking.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)

IT'S time to leave a difficult domestic situation behind. Moving to a new place, finding a different roommate or selling a property are among the possibilities. This change will result in an emotional wrench, but that can't be helped. Find a healthy outlet for your frustrations.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531753



**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU'LL be in great demand this week, both personally and professionally. This is a great time to step out of your comfort zone. You've been blessed with a multitude of talents. If you feel as if you've been thrust into a pigeonhole, work your way out of it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOU could finally get word regarding a job or promotion. Don't be surprised if you're given a lot more responsibilities in the days ahead. Fortunately, a loved one is poised to help you make this transition. It's a little nerve-racking for a person like you to be in the spotlight.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)

AN engagement, marriage or business agreement changes the course of your life. Two heads are better than one this week. Don't try to undertake a difficult task all by yourself. Relations with a neighbour or relative will be improved if you extend an olive branch.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)

SIGNING a contract makes an agreement official, which makes you nervous. You're the sort of person who doesn't like to be confined by a lot of legal formalities. Unfortunately, you need to make some official promises if you're going to move up the ladder of success.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)

BURYING your head in the sand is no longer an option. You'll be forced to face some painful truths regarding a female friend, relative or neighbour. Although it pains you to admit this woman took advantage of you, there's no other conclusion. Console yourself with hard work.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)

A LEGAL decision could be rendered, allowing you to move forward with career plans. Although you may not like the result, at least you won't be kept awake waiting for the verdict. Besides, better opportunities await you. It looks as if you'll finally be able to make use of your talents.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)

A TOUGH work assignment comes to an end, leaving you more time for your personal life. Plan to visit a secret hideaway with your beloved. Your new lover could make a lot more money than you. This financial discrepancy will create a feeling of inequity.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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Visitors can make the most of a parade of shops, which are guaranteed to be full of seasonal gifts, tearooms, supermarket, library, pubs, restaurants and a train station which has a direct line to London.

There are four churches in the village, including St Peter and St Paul Anglican Church, and the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Baptist churches.

Most of the children from the village attend Headcorn Primary School, which will be hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 6. People will be able to join in the festive fun with face painting, lucky dips, stalls, a raffle and a visit to Santa in his grotto.

There is a large Sainsbury's supermarket in the High Street, as well as a number of local butchers, bakers, florist and a fishmonger located in the High Street and surrounding areas – giving shoppers plenty of choice when it comes to stocking up on seasonal food.

Residents also come together on the second Saturday of every month for the farmers market, which is organised by Produced in Kent, and takes place from 9.30am to 12.30pm, at the New Village Hall.



On the outskirts of the village is Headcorn Aerodrome, which hosts the popular annual Flying Proms, has an on-site air museum and offers the only parachute club in Kent. It also offers various sky-diving experiences – a perfect Christmas gift for daredevils.

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**T**HE quaint village of Lenham has a lot to offer visitors looking to shop, dine out or take in the stunning countryside surrounding it.

Although it is a small village, Lenham boasts a variety of shops, including several beauty salons and hairdressers, dance schools, delicatessen and green grocer, tearoom, hairdressers, bakers and antique dealers.

Lenham grew as a market village and continues to host its country market from 9am to 1pm every second Sunday of the month, offering customers up to 20 stalls.

It has a number of restaurants and hotels to choose from, including The Harrow Hill Hotel, The Kings Head, the Dog and Bear Hotel and the well-known Thai restaurant Lime Tree on The Square.

The Lime Tree often appears on top Kent restaurant lists and has received rave reviews from newspapers and food critics.

This year the popular restaurant is offering an alternative way to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season, with a murder mystery themed party menu.

Another renowned restaurant in the area is at the luxury Chilton Park Hotel – a popular wedding venue owned by Hand Picked Hotels – which sits in 22 acres of leafy countryside. The luxury hotel is also offering Christmas party and dining nights as well as festive breaks.

To add to the village's seasonal cheer, the annual Christmas light



Picture ANNA WHITE

switch-on will take place on Sunday, December 6.

Walkers often pass through Lenham to see a 200ft-tall chalk cross that sits on a slope of the North Downs Way. The cross was first carved into the countryside in 1922 as a memorial to those who died in the First World War, but was restored in 1994 and is now a mark of remembrance of those who lost their lives in both world wars.

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**F**AMILIES can enjoy unique shops, pubs and fine dining before joining in with carol singing during a visit to picturesque West Malling.

The small town, which was founded in medieval times, offers visitors the same standard of shops and restaurants as a major town centre, but without the hustle and bustle.

To bring Christmas cheer to its community, the streets are currently lined with twinkling lights and villagers are looking forward to a charity carol concert.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event at St Mary's Church on December 23 – which is in aid of the Heart of Kent Hospice, in Aylesford.

The concert venue is still used by Benedictine nuns, who have occupied the nearby St Mary's Abbey for more than 900 years.

West Malling's other historic features include a restored 12th century Merchant's House and St Leonards Tower, a Norman tower keep.

But within the ancient landscape is a modern and lively town full of restaurants, old pubs and unique shops.

West Malling offers a wide range of cuisines, including Thai, Chinese and Italian.

One of the town's most famous restaurants is The Swan, which offers a Michelin-listed brasserie, private dining rooms and bar, and is offering a special menu during the festive season.



As food is a large part of the town's reputation, a farmers market is held in the cobbled High Street between 9.30am and 1.30pm on the fourth Sunday of the month, although the December market will be held on December 20, when traders will be joined by carol singers.



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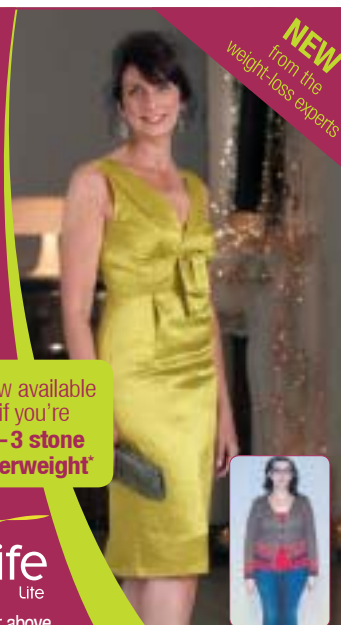
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## THE village of Sutton Valence is at the centre of Maidstone's plans to host Olympic teams in the run-up to London 2012.

Sutton Valence School has already started work on a state-of-the-art athletics track, costing £794,000, in its 100-acre grounds.

The top independent school was nominated as an official Olympics training centre for athletics, badminton, basketball, fencing and archery earlier this year.

But if Olympic competitors come to the picturesque village they might struggle to focus on training, as they will be surrounded by scenic countryside and four traditional pubs – all of which will be bursting with merry punters this Christmas.

The Swan and the Queens Head, in Broad Street, are believed to be the oldest of the four, dating back to the 15th century, followed by the Kings Head and the Clothworkers Arms.

The four pubs all come together on New Year's Day to take part in the annual Pram Race, which sees teams in fancy dress race through the village in home-made karts.

The village's hilltop location means the layout is staggered down the hill, creating crooked and windy streets which add to its charm and history. It boasts also perfect sledging spots!

The small village has a strong community vibe and this is even more apparent during the festive period, with plenty of events taking place.



This year youngsters will be able to join in the Children's Christmas Party at the village hall, on December 5, and everyone can enjoy the musical talents of the Kent Police Band Carol Concert, also at the hall, on December 13.

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**C**HRISTMAS shoppers and diners need not look any further than Maidstone for the perfect location for the festive season.

With a whole street lined with restaurants and three shopping centres, the county town has everything to offer families, couples and groups of friends.

There is already a festive feel in the town centre, with plenty of Christmas lights and decorations twinkling in the High Street, Week Street, The Mall, Fremlin Walk and the Royal Star Arcade.

People looking for Christmas gifts can browse through the town's hundreds of shops, from big name fashion chains like Miss Selfridge, Zara and Next to department stores including House of Fraser and British Home Stores.

The county town also prides itself on small, independent stores, with Union Street offering nearly 100 outlets from exotic pet shops to nail bars, hat hire shops and hi-fi centres.

The Mall is a popular shopping destination, which prides itself on being customer-friendly and is currently home to Santa's grotto.

Since the opening of Fremlin Walk in 2005, the town's reputation as a centre for good food has also been established, with Earl Street now the gastronomic hub.

Eateries include chains like Nando's, Zizzi, La Tasca and Pizza Express alongside specialist restaurants like Mexxa Mexxa – all of



which are offering party menus to celebrate the festive season.

The opening of Hazlitt Arts Centre, which recently celebrated its first birthday, has provided a top venue for theatre, music, art and of course the annual Christmas panto. This year audiences will be treated to a performance of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – starring Aaron Sidwell, who played Steven Beale in EastEnders.

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## HISTORY dating back to the New Stone Age and a working monastery are two reasons why so many tourists visit Aylesford.

The village, which sits on the banks of the River Medway, has grown rapidly during the past 30 years and now boasts about 5,000 residents.

Despite the expansion, Aylesford has adapted well to its larger community and kept its characteristic charm through its village pubs, historic buildings and attractions.

There are also good rail links to London and a number of hotels, guest houses, restaurants, and B&Bs, to meet the demands of a growing number of visitors.

Historians have been able to trace activity in the area back to the New Stone Age, which is documented from 4000BC to 2200BC.

Some of the historic buildings may have been destroyed over time but several chamber tombs, including the village's famous Kits Coty House, and The Friars Aylesford Priory – home of the Carmelite order – still stand.

The impressive Friars site is home to the Carmelites and still attracts pilgrims and families to its popular seasonal events, such as the Christmas Fayre and this year's Carols by Candlelight on December 11.

Aylesford is also the home of The Heart of Kent Hospice, which



helps adults and their families cope with life-limiting illnesses. The charity hosts a number of fundraising events throughout the year, but its flagship event, Light Up a Life, is being held at The Friars on December 6, when people will be given the chance to light a candle in memory of a loved one.

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**T**HE village of Harrietsham has good links to the motorways and railway lines but it still maintains its charming historic character.

Harrietsham sits at the foot of the North Downs – an outstanding area of natural beauty – and the Downs' water springs feed the village lakes and waterways, which attracts plenty of wildlife. This is a great place for a walk after filling up on Christmas lunch.

Many archaeological finds from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and from Roman and Saxon settlements have been discovered to the east of the Woodland Walk lakes.

Harrietsham's community embraces village life and there are plenty of organisations to keep everyone occupied, including a badminton club, a coffee morning on Fridays at the community centre, karate lessons and a bowls club.

To ensure the youngsters have their fun as well the village Remix Project hosts various clubs for children of all ages, including the Mini Beats, Rockers Club, Youth and Film club.

The volunteer-run project allows the youngsters to enjoy dancing, drama, playing musical instruments and putting on live shows.

There are also plenty of places to relax, such as The Pepperbox Inn, The Roebuck and The Ringlestone Inn –all of which are currently offering delicious Christmas menus.

For a more lively evening there is Victoria's Cabaret Club on the



A20, which offers regular dinner and music tribute act nights, as well as festive parties where all the drinks are included in the price.

In stark contrast, there is also the traditional village shop, which offers all the everyday necessities and last minute supplies for the seasonal period and is a good place to catch up with the neighbours.

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**T**HE charming village of Bearsted is popular with visitors wanting to take in the warm hospitality of its pubs and restaurants.

Bearsted is about two miles from Maidstone's town centre and thrives on its countryside setting, tight-knit community and family-friendly events, which often take place on the village green, even during the winter months.

The green is seen as the heart of the village and is used regularly by the cricket team, youngsters and families, and is decorated with twinkling lights to celebrate the Christmas period.

It is also used for the annual Music on the Green festival which sees hundreds of people of all ages, flock to the green with their chairs, tables, wine and food to enjoy a night of live music.

The village green is surrounded by historic houses, ponds, an old boarding school, two restaurants and two popular pubs which also offer impressive menus – which all support the community use of the area by offering plastic cups.

The restaurants include the Oak on the Green and the Fish on the Green, The White Horse, which recently underwent a makeover into a contemporary bar and restaurant, and the award-winning Souffle restaurant.

All are extremely popular and even more so at Christmas, for big family get-togethers or work parties.



Picture ANNA WHITE

If you fancy some festive entertainment before or after your meal, pop along to Bearsted Choral Society's Christmas concert on December 12, at The Holly Cross Church. Call 01634 666730.

With its restaurants and good range of shops, including a butchers, hairdressers and newsagents, as well as great transport links, it's not surprising to know the village has a population of more than 9,000.

The community is extremely proud of its natural heritage, including the nearby Church Landway woodland area and the North Downs, and has its own Bearsted Woodland Trust committee.

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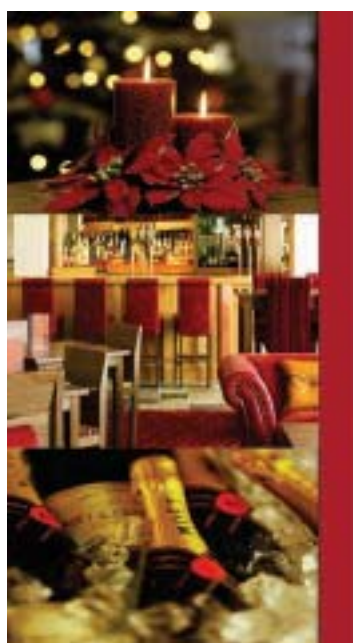
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**T**HE bustling village of Staplehurst offers traditional charm and a rich rural heritage – as well as plenty of pubs to enjoy a festive drink.

It sits to the south of Maidstone and recorded a population of 6,000 residents in the 2001 census, making it one of the largest villages in Kent.

It lies on the route of a Roman road, which now forms part of the A229.

Staplehurst has its own high street with a range of shops, an estate agent, hairdressers, optician, a Spar supermarket, a vet's surgery and a library.

It also has a good selection of pubs including The Bell Inn, The Kings Head, The Railway Tavern and The Pride of Kent, as well as a number of take-away businesses to deliver to the flourishing community.

New housing developments have brought more families to the area and the village offers a primary school and several nurseries.

It also has a large medical centre, a base for GPs and dentists.

The village has excellent transport links to London, which has attracted commuters to move to the area. Staplehurst station is on the line between Ashford International, London Charing Cross and London Cannon Street, via Tonbridge and offers regular fast services.

But the railway connections from the village have not always been so popular. The Staplehurst rail crash in 1865 caused the death of 10



people and injuries to 47 other passengers.

Victorian writer Charles Dickens was on the train at the time and was said to have been affected by the crash for the rest of his life.

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A roaring log fire, great home made food and real ales are firm fixtures on the menu at The Bell Inn, Staplehurst. With a wonderful menu that boasts some of the best local produce to be found including a Biddenden cider pork chop served with corn bread, this country pub and restaurant is the perfect snug to steal yourself away from the great British weather as the nights draw in. Relax and enjoy a drink in the bar where, with all the real ales cask marque accredited, you're guaranteed a great pint. Westerham Brewery's Finchcocks is the house ale and with two further pumps, which rotate guest ales, there is always something new to try. And for those looking for a quick bite to eat, the bar menu is sure to tempt. The separate restaurant area with its intimate and relaxed atmosphere make it the perfect place to enjoy the delights on offer from owner and head chef, Paul Mott. Whether you are enjoying an intimate meal for two or a family celebration this great country restaurant can cater for all your needs. A private dining area, available for parties up to 12, is the perfect place for dinner with friends and for bigger celebrations, of up to 40 people, you can hire the whole restaurant. With its great food and superb real ales the Bell inn serves up the best of Kent.

Two Courses (either starter + main course or main course + dessert) £17.95  
Three Courses £21.95 Four Courses £24.95  
All options include Coffee & Mince Pie

<p><b>STARTERS (first course)</b>  <b>PRAWN &amp; AVOCADO SALAD</b>          Dressed Atlantic baby prawns served on toasted granary with avocado  <b>PROSCIUTTO BRUSCHETTA</b>          Prosciutto ham, parmesan cheese and olive bruschetta  <b>BREADED GOATS CHEESE</b>          Breaded goats cheese with toasted walnut and apple salad and walnut oil  <b>BROCCOLI &amp; STILTON SOUP</b>          Served with fresh bloomer bread and butter</p> <p><b>MAIN COURSES (second course)</b>  <b>TRADITIONAL ROAST TURKEY</b>          Served with all the trimmings and seasonal vegetables  <b>LAMB SHANK</b>          Served with sweet potato mash, mint sauce and seasonal vegetables  <b>DUCK IN A CRANBERRY &amp; ORANGE SAUCE</b>          Roast Duck Breast in a cranberry and orange sauce, served with stilton dauphinoise and seasonal vegetables</p>	<p><b>FILLET OF SALMON</b>          Fillet of Salmon cooked in lemon and dill butter, served with roasted new potatoes and seasonal vegetables  <b>MUSHROOM WELLINGTON</b>          Mushroom, spinach and gruyere Wellington with roasted new potatoes and seasonal vegetables</p> <p><b>DESSERTS (third course)</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS PUD</b>          Flambéed in brandy and served with cream or brandy butter  <b>FRUIT SALAD</b>          Fresh fruit salad with whipped cream  <b>CHEESE CAKE</b>          Vanilla cheesecake with winter berries served with cream  <b>CHOCOLATE BROWNIE</b>          Served warm with vanilla ice cream  <b>CHEESE PLATE (fourth course)</b>  <b>SELECTION OF 3 CHEESES</b>          Mature Farmhouse Cheddar, Stilton and Brie served with chutney, crackers, grapes and celery sticks</p>
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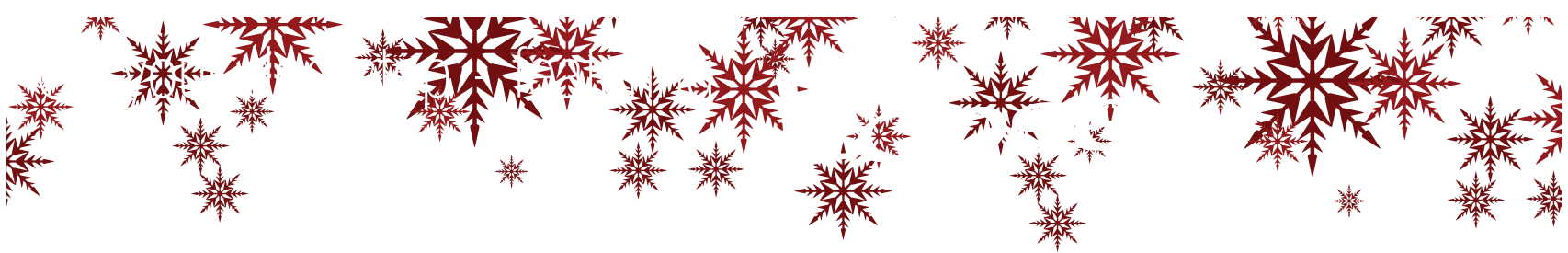
*Decisions, decisions, decisions... Which do I choose?*

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439 Loose Road Maidstone

**T**WO miles out of Maidstone's town centre is the picturesque village of Loose, which boasts acres of countryside and traditional village life.

The original Loose village, which sits at the head of the Loose Valley, is a perfect setting for a pub lunch and a leisurely stroll along the river that flows right through the heart of the village.

At the bottom of Old Loose Hill, next to All Saints' Church on the river bank, is The Chequers Inn, which is well-known for its traditional English menu – including its Christmas specials.

It is believed that a former landlord of the Chequers Inn used to keep horses at the bottom of Old Loose Hill to help haul carts up to the top.

Although the original ragstone village is set in the valley, a large surrounding area is also regarded as Loose and includes post offices, schools, village shops, hairdressers, florist and plenty of country pubs and takeaway outlets.


On the outskirts of the village is The Swan Inn and next to the large community park is The Walnut Tree – which are both popular with residents, especially for festive drinks with friends and family.

The area attracts families due to its range of schools, including Loose Primary and Infant School and the New Line Learning Academy, which sits on the former Oldborough Manor School site.

To add some seasonal cheer into the community, the Loose




Amenities Association is hosting Carols around the Christmas Tree on December 17, in the garden of Tylers, Kirdale, with plenty of mince pies and mulled wine.



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**L**ARKFIELD has become a flourishing business hub, but also offers serene community life with plenty of sporting activities.

Situated about five miles from Maidstone's town centre, it is surrounded by neighbouring villages East Malling, West Malling, Ditton and Aylesford.

The industrial site in New Hythe Lane is home to dozens of companies and attracts lots of trade to the village, including haulage firm Seymour Transport, which is owned by Gurkha Justice campaigner Peter Carroll, who will contest the Maidstone and Weald seat for the Liberal Democrats at the next general election.

Larkfield offers a range of sporting facilities with a large leisure centre and a watersports club at Leybourne Lakes, where families can enjoy scuba diving and learn windsurfing, kayaking and canoeing.

To keep the youngsters entertained during the festive months, the Larkfield Leisure Centre is hosting Larkabout Christmas parties. The parties are suitable for children aged 10 years old or older, and those who attend will receive a free gift from Santa in his winter grotto.

The village also caters for those preferring a more relaxed lifestyle and has plenty of restaurants, hotels and pubs, including Wealden Hall, The Bricklayers Arms, The Monks Head and The Spotted Cow.

The most famous hotel in the area is The Larkfield Priory Hotel, which was partly owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The hotel was built in the mid-19th century and is rumoured to be haunted by a girl called Charlotte, who was once a servant to the previous owner, Rev William Lewis Wigan.

It is believed she hanged herself in the hotel after a turbulent relationship with the grounds keeper. The spooky story made it on to the Britain's Most Haunted television programme on Living TV.



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**GIFT VOUCHERS  
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**B**LOSSOMING new town Kings Hill is well worth a visit – especially if you want to join in the fun at its Christmas panto.

The small town was once occupied by the Ministry of Defence as West Malling Airfield and many pilots flew from the base during the Second World War, but it has now developed into a popular spot for family life.

Kings Hill is also popular with the wealthy – in 2004 the Kings Hill postcode was listed as having the highest average income and the highest proportion of households earning more than £100,000 in Britain.

To keep its ever-growing population entertained this Christmas, the parish council is hosting its own festive version of Mother Goose, at the community centre on December 5.

Since its early days, Kings Hill has now bloomed into a town in its own right, boasting an Asda supermarket, Shepherd Neame pub The Spitfire, two primary schools, an opticians, and pharmacy as well as coffee shops, Indian restaurants and sandwich bars.

It also has a thriving business area, which is home to companies like Yell, Kimberley Clark and charities including the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

The Kings Hill development is one of several parishes built in the borough of Tonbridge and Malling since the 1950s and work began on



levelling the land in 1989. Following its development by Rouse Kent, the area is now popular with families because of its proximity to West Malling and larger towns like Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.

More houses are planned for the site, and there is also talk of another primary school and maybe even a secondary school if current expansion continues.

Tickets for the panto are still available at £5. Call 01732 220919 to book.




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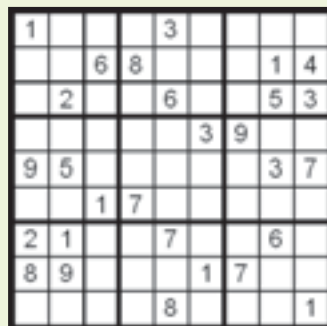
## CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No116

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

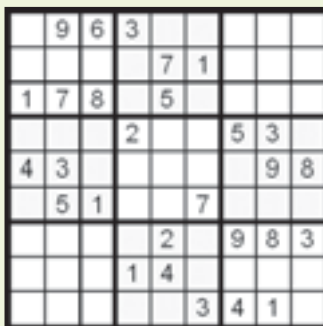
### EASY



### MEDIUM



### HARD



### CRYPTIC CLUES

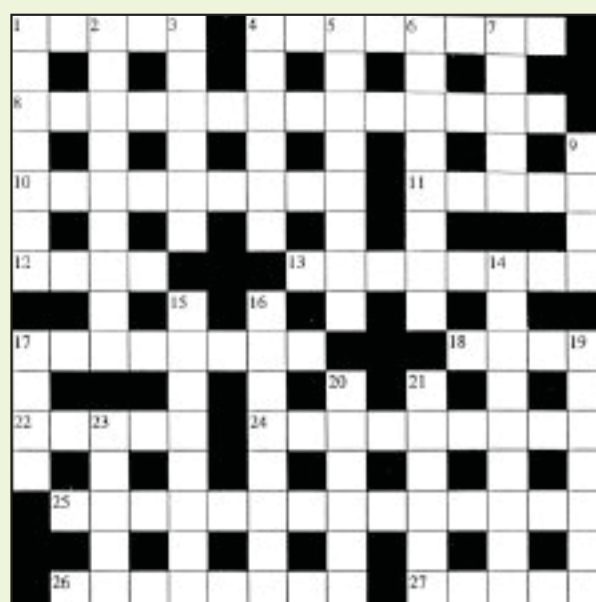
#### ACROSS

- 1 Shakespearean from Caracas came (5)
- 4 Fast mover over snow? One going over water (3-5)
- 8 Specific container (8-6)
- 10 Weather forecast for the Andes (4-5)
- 11 Came first with Kay losing article - shaky (5)
- 12 Photograph cross-beam (1-3)
- 13 Train fellow carriage driver (8)
- 17 Figure becoming shy in resentment (8)
- 18 Zodiacal apple? (4)
- 22 Was, say, to include lieutenant in some steps (5)
- 24 Grant, have focus adjusted (9)
- 25 Put on too much of an act (14)
- 26 Hero-worshiper round first shrub (8)
- 27 Only a fraction before the tenth (5)

#### DOWN

- 1 Complicated group (7)
- 2 Deny rates had been amended while one was inactive (9)
- 3 Aircraftman on line in agreement (6)
- 4 Lady had Jack and one non-picture card (6)
- 5 Where to find league leaders, it's above-board! (8)
- 6 Wait with coke travelling round Polish city (8)
- 7 Lady's excellent part (5)
- 9 Could start mixing any colour (4)
- 14 Deadly transgression? (6,3)
- 15 Hesitantly I tucked into dish at restaurant (8)
- 16 Shook, ever troubled in pound (8)
- 17 Roughly handle new piece (4)
- 19 Difference between two sides (7)
- 20 Whisper 'drink up' repeatedly (6)
- 21 Note picture first had some light (6)
- 23 Crossing up and down (5)

### SCRIBBLE HERE



### QUICK CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 1 Cheek (5)
- 4 Delphinium (8)
- 8 Navigational system (9,5)
- 10 Skipped playfully (9)
- 11 Alloy (5)
- 12 Ceremonial act (4)
- 13 Teach (8)
- 17 Brown sugar (8)
- 18 Patch up (4)
- 22 Trinket (5)
- 24 Calumnies (anag.) (9)
- 25 Very quickly (2,1,4,2,5)
- 26 Remove a gag (8)
- 27 Demolished (5)

#### DOWN

- 1 Boast (7)
- 2 Final demand (9)
- 3 West Country National Park (6)
- 4 Fling (3,3)
- 5 Ebbing (8)
- 6 Fellow sailor (8)
- 7 German submarine (1-4)
- 9 Coagulate (4)
- 14 In complete agreement (9)
- 15 Fussy decoration (4-4)
- 16 Right through (4,1,2,1)
- 17 Arrears (4)
- 19 Ironed (7)
- 20 Hoarse (anag.) (6)
- 21 Religious friend (6)
- 23 Piece of stamped metal (5)

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- Leisure TV • Business TV
- Sports TV

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No115

#### EASY



#### MEDIUM



#### HARD



### CRYPTIC SOLUTION No115

**ACROSS:** 1 Codify 4 Stupid 10 About-turn 11 Irony 12 Explode 13 Unknown 14 Evasive action 16 Poetic licence 21 Placebo 22 Toby-jug 24 Climb 25 In reserve 26 Denver 27 Hybrid. **DOWN:** 1 Craven 2 Droop 3 Fatuous 5 Thicket 6 Protozoic 7 Drying 8 Queen Victoria 9 Pneumatic tyre 15 Violation 17 Tremble 18 Embassy 19 Spiced 20 Agreed 23 Juror.

### QUICK SOLUTION No116

**ACROSS:** 1 Sauce 4 Larkspur 8 Automatic Pressed 20 Ashore 21 Quaker 23 Jeton. 15 From-Frou 16 From A to Z 17 Debt 19 Ultimatum 3 Exmoor 4 Let fly 5 Reaching 6 Shipmate 7 U-boat 9 Clot 14 Unanimous 22 Droop 3 Fatuous 5 Thicket 6 Protozoic 7 Drying 8 Queen Victoria 9 Pneumatic tyre 15 Violation 17 Tremble 18 Embassy 19 Spiced 20 Agreed 23 Juror.

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



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CANTERBURY**CATEGORIES**

- Kent Butcher/Meat Producer of the Year**  
Butcher or Farmer, selling or producing meat that has spent the majority of its life in Kent
- Best Kentish Beer**  
Beer made from hops predominantly grown in Kent at a brewery based in Kent
- Best Kentish Wine**  
Wine made from grapes predominantly grown in Kent at a vineyard based in Kent
- Best Kentish Cider or Perry**  
Cider or Perry produced in Kent made predominantly from apples or pears grown in Kent
- Kent Juice Producer of the Year**  
Producer of fruit juice made from fruit grown in Kent
- Kent Local Food Retailer of the Year**  
Must demonstrate active local sourcing where and when products are available from within Kent
- Kent Seafood Retailer of the Year**  
Must demonstrate active local sourcing where and when products are available from within Kent
- Kent Food Product of the Year**  
Made from primary product that has spent the majority of its life in Kent and/or undergone a value added process over and above re-packaging or re-marketing
- Kent Food Producer of the Year**  
Primary product must have spent the majority of its life in Kent and/or undergone a value added process over and above re-packaging or re-marketing
- Kent Restaurant of the Year**  
Must actively use locally sourced products where and when available from within Kent and demonstrate this commitment in menus and marketing
- Kent Pub of the Year**  
Must demonstrate active local sourcing of food and/or drink where and when products are available from within Kent
- Kent Farmers' Market of the Year**

**TASTE OF KENT  
AWARDS  
2009**

CAT.	PRODUCT	BUSINESS NAME	LOCATION
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

**RULES OF VOTING:**

Voting will open on 28th September 2009 and closes 3rd January 2010.

- Original voting forms only will be accepted (Photocopies will not be accepted under any circumstances.)
- Voting may take place in any number of categories – not all categories have to be completed.
- Produced in Kent Ltd reserves the right to remove duplicate or spoilt votes
- The decision of Produced in Kent Ltd and its nominated judges is final.

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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Bovis Homes sees an encouraging sales boost

BOVIS Homes achieved 1,488 private reservations in the year to November 13, an 83 per cent rise on the comparative figure for the same period in 2008.

The group also says it anticipates legally completing around 1,800 sales in 2009, of which 1,500 are expected to be private homes, compared with 1,223 a year earlier, and about 300 social homes, compared with 594.

In addition, private sales prices have seen "a modest improvement" since the end of June and Bovis expects to increase the value of its existing land bank, while continuing to proceed with land purchases.

Also Barratt Developments reported it is shying away from the apartment market to focus on building houses.

According to the firm, banks and building societies are wary of lending on apartments because of oversupply and pre-credit crisis mortgage scams that involved property valuations being deliberately inflated.

### Want a quick deal? Click on to Chainfree.com

A NEW website dedicated to selling homes not caught up in a property chain has been launched in an attempt to help people buy and sell realistically priced homes more quickly and efficiently.

Chainfree.com is a one-stop shop which means purchasers no longer have to spend hours surfing the net, attending auctions and visiting countless estate agents.

Chainfree.com chief executive Paul Smith explained: "All the properties featured have been realistically valued, in most cases by two other independent valuers, to ensure they are at the right price.

Because they are chain free, the purchase is likely to go through quickly without any undue delays, taking the stress out of buying a property."

More than 5,500 properties from across the country ranging in price from just £10,000 to more than £500,000 are currently featured and more than 850 individual branches have loaded properties onto the site including Spicerhaart brands Haart, Spicer McColl, Darlows in Wales, Haybrook in South Yorkshire and Felicity J Lord in London.

Spicerhaart corporate sales managing director Mark Pilling said: "The new website gives a dedicated portal for estate agencies selling chain free properties which, by their very nature, means they sell quickly."



**PLAN YOUR VOTE** : Residential property developers are less likely to get their planning permission through if they are applying in a Conservative-controlled local authority

# The politics behind getting your planning permission

■ BY NICK AMES

RESIDENTIAL property developers are less likely to get planning permission for developments in Tory-controlled local authorities, according to law firm McGrigors.

They say developers who want to increase their stock should act quickly if they are in a Labour or Liberal Democrat district, in case the Conservatives win the next round of local elections.

Research by the law firm shows that over the last year Tory councils approved an average of 63 per cent of planning applications for major housing developments compared to 69 per cent in local authorities not under Conservative control.

McGrigors said this was significant as Conservatives control is most heavily concentrated in the south east of England where housing shortages are the most acute.

The research also found that 60 per cent of Local Planning Authorities with the lowest percentage of planning permissions granted for major housing developments are run by the Conservatives.

McGrigors warned that if the Conservatives increased their 51 per cent control of UK councils at the next election then it could become harder for developers to obtain planning permission. This, it said, meant Britain could face the risk of more severe housing shortages in the long term. The firm advised developers to make planning applications before the May elections in order to maximise the chances of obtaining consent.

Suzanne Gill, partner at McGrigors, said: "A slow and expensive planning approval process has contributed to a lack of new housing and,

in part, to the boom and bust of property prices.

"Shortages of new homes are not restricted to metropolitan areas. In many rural areas people looking to buy for the first time are

being priced out of their local community because of the lack of new, affordable housing."

"Developers are wondering how a change in government will impact planning policy. There is a concern that a tightening of planning regulations will impact on their ability to deliver projects and make housing a less attractive part of the construction market."

## £15,000 towards a new Millwood home

SINCE housebuilder Millwood Designer Homes launched the third phase of its development St Augustine's Park in the village of Westgate-on-Sea, it has received a large amount of interest.

And with another home just reserved, only six now remain with three, four and five-bedroom houses available.

As an early Christmas present, Millwood is offering the unique opportunity to receive a £15,000 discount voucher, which can be used when buying one of the fantastic designer homes that remain.

St Augustine's Park offers a mix of properties so it appeals to young couples and families alike. And with the new high-speed rail link in nearby Birchington-on-Sea, which commences in December and takes you to St Pancras in under one-and-a-half hours, it is now also very convenient for commuters too.

Richard Elliott, Sales Manager for Millwood Designer Homes said: "Westgate-on-Sea is a wonderful village that has evolved over the years, offering a variety of shops and conveniences, as well as a good selection of restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs. It is a great place for families as there



are several reputable schools in the area, including King Ethelbert's School which is less than a mile from the development. However, as only a few homes now remain, I would urge people to come and visit this stunning development as it really is an opportunity not to be missed."

Westgate-on-Sea train station provides regular links to London Victoria in approximately one hour and 45 minutes.

Prices at St Augustine's Park start from £229,950 for a three-bedroom home, £239,950 for a four-bed and £245,000 for a five-bed.

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# Ibbett Mosely

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West Malling 01732 842668



**KINGS HILL** £399,950  
Four bedroom detached house on two floors and in a corner position with attractive rear garden and excellent Kitchen/Breakfast room with double doors to patio.

West Malling 01732 842668



**WEST MALLING** £399,950  
Detached individual style three bedroom Bungalow close to the High Street and set back from the road with parking for several cars. NO CHAIN

West Malling 01732 842668



**KINGS HILL** £369,950  
An attractive four bedroom detached house in a cul de sac position. This property has been re-designed with an archway from the Kitchen to a Sun Lounge and the Garage converted to a Family room. Must be seen internally.

West Malling 01732 842668



**KINGS HILL** £330,000  
Very well maintained three bedroom detached house in the popular Kings Hill area. En suite to Master Bedroom. Kitchen/Breakfast room. Conservatory extension to the rear.

West Malling 01732 842668



**WEST MALLING** £315,000  
A unique one bedroom detached property on the edge of West Malling offering exceptional seclusion surrounded by open farmland (could be adapted to 2 beds, one on Ground Floor, or possible extension). NO CHAIN

West Malling 01732 842668



**EAST MALLING** £325,000  
Three bedroom Ragstone Cottage in a rural location with views to surrounding countryside. Attractively presented, having been refurbished throughout in recent years.

West Malling 01732 842668



**MEREWORTH** £315,000  
Extended 3 bedroom semi detached cottage situated in a superb position adjacent to open countryside with panoramic views over surrounding farmland and beyond. NO CHAIN

West Malling 01732 842668



**BIRLING** £299,950  
Reputed to be one of the oldest properties in this picturesque Kent village, this eye-catching 2 bedroom Grade II Listed character Cottage. Internal viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the many original features.

West Malling 01732 842668



**KINGS HILL** £269,900  
Attached house with two bedrooms, both en suite, in an excellent position close to the Conservation Area on the edge of this very popular development.

West Malling 01732 842668



**WEST MALLING** £210,000  
Unique two bedroom mews cottage in the heart of the High Street, featuring open-plan modern Kitchen/Diner, spacious Living area and Mezzanine level over Kitchen. NO CHAIN

West Malling 01732 842668





**Maidstone 01622 759891**  
maidstone@geeringandcolyer.com



### Maidstone Offers in excess of £225,000

Three bedroom 1930's semi detached house, 27' lounge/diner, 16' Kitchen, central heating, double glazing, rear garden of 100', garage and office.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



### Maidstone £309,950

Detached four bedroom home, one bedroom measuring 24' could be split to create an additional bedroom. Other benefits include a living room, dining room and kitchen.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



### Maidstone £89,950

NO CHAIN. A one bedroom starter home. Double bedroom and bathroom on the first floor and a living room and kitchen on the ground floor. Mainly double glazed.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



### Maidstone £95,000

A modern second floor studio apartment. The property has a fitted kitchen with incorporated appliances. The development is gated and has security entry.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



### Harrietsham OIEO £150,000

Two bedroom top floor apartment. En-suite to master bedroom. 16'6" x 14'10" Lounge/Dining Room. Double glazing. No chain.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



### Maidstone Asking Price £169,995

A first floor two bedroom apartment which was a show home. On site concierge and is in a security conscious gated development. This home has one ensuite, living room with doors to the balcony.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



### Boughton Monchelsea £187,500

A modern three bedroom end of terrace home with en-suite shower room. There are two receptions and cloakroom. Gas fired central heating, double glazing.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891



### Harrietsham Asking Price £239,950

Three bedroom link detached home with en-suite shower room to master bedroom. Two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room and a downstairs cloakroom. The village of Harrietsham has its own railway station.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891

## The UK's largest Open House weekend

5th – 6th December

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### Bearsted

- Two Bedroom Bungalow
- Well Presented And Much Improved
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- Refitted Bathroom, Double Glazing
- Gas Heating, Garden
- Garage And Workshop

**£315,000**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Bearsted

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Close To Bearsted Green
- Central Heating, Double Glazing

**£235,000**

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### Weaving

- Three Bedroom Semi- Detached
- Refitted Kitchen, Bathroom
- En-Suite, Double Glazing

**£225,000**

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### Downswood

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Three Receptions, En-Suite
- Garden, Refitted Kitchen

**£210,000**

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### Maidstone

- Four Bedroom Town House
- Two Bathrooms, Garage
- Deally Placed For Town Centre

**OIEO £199,000**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Maidstone

- Three Bedroom Home
- Lovely Condition
- On The Outskirts Of Maidstone

**OIEO £178,000**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Maidstone

- Three Bedroom Terrace House
- Conservatory, Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing And Garage

**£176,995**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Maidstone

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- No Onward Chain, Lounge/Diner
- Conservatory And Cloakroom

**OIEO £170,000**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Maidstone

- Lovely Three Bedroom
- No Onward Chain
- Move Straight In

**OIEO £150,000**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Harrietsham

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ensuite Shower, Under Floor Heating
- Lounge, Diner, Allocated Parking

**OIEO £150,000**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Maidstone

- Top Floor Apartment, Two Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen (Built In Appliances)
- New Bathroom, Storage Heating

**OIE £120,000**

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### Maidstone

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- an easier more relaxed way to view
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enter phone no here

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[propertywide.co.uk](http://propertywide.co.uk)

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# Bairstow eves

**Maidstone 01622 691554**

[maidstone@bairstoweves.co.uk](mailto:maidstone@bairstoweves.co.uk)

**Countrywide**

## Marden



**OIEO £119,995**

Lounge, dining room, office plus kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom, gated driveway, green to the front.

## Maidstone



**OIEO £149,995**

Three bedroom family home in a cul de sac, kitchen, lounge and bathroom, chain free family home.

## Maidstone



**£149,995**

Two bedroom terrace cottage, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, no chain.

## Maidstone



**£149,995**

Two bedroom ground floor apartment. En-suite shower room. Allocated parking. Fitted wardrobes.

## Maidstone



**£179,995**

Flexible and adaptable accommodation over 3 levels. Extensive lounge, kitchen and dining room.

## Maidstone



**OIEO £185,000**

Three bedroom end of terrace. Popular development. Off road parking. Fitted kitchen. Highly recommended.

## Langley



**£185,000**

Three bedroom semi detached, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility room, bathroom, driveway parking.

## Maidstone



**£197,000**

Flexible and adaptable family home. Three bedrooms, separate reception rooms, en-suite and cloakroom.

## Maidstone



**£200,000**

Four Bedroom family home. bathroom, en-suite. Fitted kitchen. Utility room and cloakroom.

## Aylesford



**OIEO £210,000**

Semi detached four bedroom family home with generous plot. Driveway parking. Viewing essential.

[www.bairstoweves.co.uk](http://www.bairstoweves.co.uk)

[www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk](http://www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk)



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EAR8122 11/2009

## MAIDSTONE

£349,950



barming@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9717

- Extended Semi Detached Home • Four Bedrooms
- Ensuite To Master Bedroom • Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen • South Facing Garden
- Stunning Views Over Farleigh

## MAIDSTONE

£179,995



barming@your-move.co.uk  
0845 370 9717

- Top Floor Apartment
- 2 Bedrooms
- Feature Barrel Vaulted Ceilings
- Double Glazed Windows Where Stated
- Open Plan Sitting/Dining/Kitchen

## MAIDSTONE

£100,000



barming@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9717

- First Floor Apartment • Two Bedrooms • In Need Of Modernisation

## MAIDSTONE

£165,000



barming@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9717

- Three Bedroom Home • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Modern Kitchen

## MAIDSTONE

£160,000



barming@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9717

- Ground Floor Apartment • En-suite To Master • Further Bedroom

## MAIDSTONE

£200,000



barming@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9717

- Ground Floor Apartment • Two Bedrooms • Fitted Kitchen/Diner

## MAIDSTONE

£119,995



barming@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9717

- One Bedroom Starter Home • Rear Garden • Ideal First Time Buy

## EAST FARLEIGH

£79,995



barming@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9717

- Two Bedroom Park Home • Rear Garden • Double Glazing As Stated

## HARRIETSHAM

£699,000



bearsted@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9718

- Within Approx 2.75 Acres • Five Bedrooms - 2 En-suite
- Conservatory • Lounge & Dining Room • Kitchen • O.F.C.H & Double Glazing As Stated • Double Garage & Workshop

## DOWNSWOOD

£189,995



bearsted@your-move.co.uk  
0845 370 9718

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge • Kitchen & Dining Room
- Bathroom/WC
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing As Stated
- Garage

## BEARSTED

£219,995



bearsted@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9718

- Bungalow • Two Bedrooms • Lounge/Dining Room • Kitchen

## OTHAM

£695,000



bearsted@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9718

- Five Bedrooms - Including Attic Rooms • Lounge & Dining Room

## BEARSTED

£225,000



bearsted@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9718

- Bungalow • Two Bedrooms • Lounge/Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen

## WEAVERING

£175,000



bearsted@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9718

- Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Conservatory Used As A Dining Room

## WEAVERING

£245,000



bearsted@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9718

- Semi Detached Bungalow • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Conservatory

## BEARSTED

£299,950



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- Bungalow • Three Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen/Dining Room

sales lettings mortgages





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**www.your-move.co.uk****SUTTON VALENCE £339,995**

maidstone@your-move.co.uk

0845 370 9720

- Oast Style Detached House • 3 Bedrooms
- 32ft Drawing Room • Separate Dining Room • Garage
- Master With En-suite • Semi Rural Location
- Modern Contemporary Interior

**MAIDSTONE £199,950**barming@your-move.co.uk  
0845 370 9717

- Four Bedroom Home
- Lounge / Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Master Bedroom With En-suite Shower
- Bedroom Four / Study
- Cellar
- Gas Fired Central Heating

**WEAVINGER £284,995**bearsted@your-move.co.uk  
0845 370 9718

- Well Presented Detached
- Four Bedrooms - Master En suite
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Cloakroom
- G.F.C.H & Double Glazing As Stated
- Garage & Driveway

**MAIDSTONE £165,000**maidstone@your-move.co.uk  
0845 370 9720

- Victorian Style Terrace
- 2 Bedrooms
- First Floor Bathroom/WC
- 2 Separate Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Cottage Style Garden

**RIVERSIDE PLAZA £339,995**maidstone@your-move.co.uk  
0845 370 9720

- 4 Bed Town House
- Stunning River Views (4 Balconies)
- Garden Rm Opening To Terrace
- Integral Garage
- Sitting Room With Balcony
- Dining Room With Balcony • Kitchen

**MAIDSTONE £169,995**

maidstone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9720

- 2 Bedrooms • Cellar (currently Office) • 2 Reception Rooms

**MAIDSTONE £112,500**

maidstone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9720

- Penthouse Conversion Apartment
- 1 Bedroom • Sitting/Dining Room

**MAIDSTONE £154,995**

barming@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9717

- Two Bedroom • Mid Terraced House • No Chain • Rear Garden

**MAIDSTONE £105,000**

barming@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9717

- First Floor Maisonette • Two Bedrooms • End Of Chain • Cul De Sac

**MAIDSTONE £285,000**

maidstone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9720

- Semi Detached • 4 Bedrooms
- Master With En-suite • Cloakroom/Wc

**HALLING £199,000**

maidstone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9720

- Grade 2 Listed Cottage • Sitting Room • Kitchen/Diner • 2 Bedrooms

**LEEDS £135,000**

bearsted@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9718

- Cottage • One Bedroom (plus Loft Area) • Lounge • Dining Room

**HARRIETSHAM £130,000**

bearsted@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9718

- Character Cottage • In Need Of Modernisation • Two Bedrooms

**MAIDSTONE £209,995**

maidstone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9720

- Townhouse • 3 Bedrooms • Double Chamber Cellar • 2 Reception Rooms

**DITTON £169,995**

maidstone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9720

- Townhouse • 3 Bedrooms • Bathroom/WC • Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom

**MAIDSTONE £165,000**

maidstone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9720

- End Of Terrace • 3 Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner • Courtyard Garden

**MAIDSTONE £155,000**

maidstone@your-move.co.uk 0845 370 9720

- Semi Detached Family Home • 2 Double Bedrooms • Extended



# The brightest name in estate agency just got bigger.

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# simon miller & Company

**Vinters Park**



- 3 Bed Semi-Detached Home
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Conservatory

Enquire Maidstone  
**£127,000**


**Bradbourne Fields**



- Detached Sheridan Design Home
- Kitchen And Separate Utility
- En Suite To Master Bedroom

Enquire Larkfield  
**OIEO £299,995**


**Kings Hill**



- 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Sought After Kings Hill
- Garage And Parking

Enquire West Malling  
**£275,000**


**Charing**



- Four Bedrooms Plus Annex
- Heated Swimming Pool
- Ideal Family Home

Enquire Lenham  
**£339,995**

**Headcorn**



- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Garage and Driveway
- 2/3 Reception Areas

Enquire Headcorn  
**£290,000-£310,000**


**Maidstone**



- 2 Bed Period Property
- Town Centre Location
- No Through Road Position

Enquire Maidstone  
**£120,000-£140,000**


**Larkfield**



- Three Bedroom Townhouse
- En Suite To Master Bedroom
- Fitted Kitchen And Bathroom

Enquire Larkfield  
**£215,000**

**West Malling**



- 3 Bedroom Extended Property
- Close Proximity To Town Centre
- Offered With No Forward Chain

Enquire West Malling  
**£199,995**

**Ditton**



- Extended 3 Bedroom Family Home
- Garage And Driveway
- Sixty Five Foot Private Garden

Enquire Larkfield  
**£204,995**

**West Malling**



- 3 Bedroom Period Town House
- Parking At Front And Rear
- Large Garden/Town Location

Enquire West Malling  
**£300,000-£320,000**


**Lenham Heath**



- Enormous Family Size Cottage
- Six Bedrooms, Two Receptions
- Rear Garden of 25'0"

Enquire Lenham  
**£349,950**

**Aylesford**



- 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- 24 Foot Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Double Garage And Parking

Enquire Larkfield  
**£329,995**


**Offham**



- 1600s Built Detached Cottage
- Wonderfully Refurbished
- Sought After Village Location

Enquire West Malling  
**£500,000-£525,000**


**Headcorn**



- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Garage and Driveway
- 22'9" Lounge/Diner

Enquire Headcorn  
**OIRO £229,995**

**Maidstone**



- 1 Bed Starter Home
- Vacant Possession Available
- Garden & Parking

Enquire Maidstone  
**£110,000-£120,000**


**Maidstone**



- 3 Bed Victorian Property
- Cellar with Own Entrance
- Town Centre Location

Enquire Maidstone  
**£199,995**


**Sutton Valence**



- 2 Bedroom Cottage
- Conservatory & Gardens
- Cellar Room

Enquire Headcorn  
**£159,995**

**Lenham Heath**



- Detached Country Home
- Five Bedrooms
- Approximately 1/2 Acre Plot

Enquire Lenham  
**£480,000**

**Bradbourne Fields**



- Shakespeare Design Home
- Detached Double Garage
- Kitchen With Separate Utility

Enquire Larkfield  
**£399,995**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

14 The Chantry, Headcorn, TN27 9TF

We act on behalf of the mortgagees in possession and they are in receipt of an offer of £226,000 subject to contract for this property. Anyone wishing to place a higher offer must do so before legal exchange of contracts.

Enquire Headcorn

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01634 240966

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01732 844111

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## Maidstone Branch



# Connells

### Ringlestone

£575PCM



- One bedroom house
- Gardens and shed
- Cooker in kitchen
- Large bed + wardrobe unit

### Grove Green

£595PCM



- Lovely 2 bedroom maisonette
- 1 double bedroom and 1 single
- Kitchen with appliances
- Off road parking

### East Farleigh

£625PCM



- Two bedroom property
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern bathroom
- Rear enclosed garden

### Lindesfarne Gardens

£625PCM



- Riverside apartment good size
- Ensuite to master, 2 bedrooms
- Kitchen with all appliances
- Lounge with fireplace

### Wheeler Street

£725PCM



- Three bedroom house, garage
- Lovely kitchen with appliances
- Downstairs bathroom
- 2nd bedroom as dressing room

### Spot Lane

£825PCM



- Three bedroom family house
- Rear enclosed garden + shed
- Off road parking
- shower in bathroom

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Bearsted and Peneden Heath

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## Maidstone Branch



# Connells

### Maidstone

£309,995



- 4 Bedroom Detached House
- Garage & Driveway
- DG & Gas Central Heating
- Situated Off The Queens Road

### Kings Hill

£299,950



- Very Attractive 3 Bed House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Garage and Parking

### Maidstone

£139,950



- 2 Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Ensuite to the Master
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Gated Development, Balcony

### Maidstone

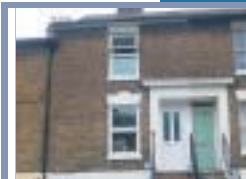
£85,000



- One Bed Top Floor Retirement Apartment
- Communal Gardens Residents Lounge
- Warden Assisted

### Maidstone

£144,995



- 2 Bedroom Duplex Maisonette
- Rear Garden
- Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom
- No Onward Chain!!!!!!

### Maidstone

£199,995



- Two/Three Bedroom House
- Cellar Room/Bedroom Three
- Luxury Shower Room
- No Forward Chain

### Maidstone

£184,995



- 3 Bedroom End Of Terrace
- DG & Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Timber Garage/Workshop

### Maidstone

£219,995



- Extended 3 Bedroom House
- Family Room
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Garage and Driveway

### Maidstone

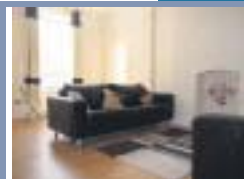
£159,995



- Mid Terrace 2 Bedroom Home
- Completely Refurbished
- Ensuite to Master Bedroom
- Utility room - Kitchen Diner

### Maidstone

£120,000



- Grade II Listed Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Ensuite to Master
- Parking Option

### Weavering

£284,995



- Four Bedrooms
- En Suite To The Master
- Two Reception Rooms
- Attractive Rear Garden

### Maidstone

£254,950



- 3 Double Bedroom Bungalow
- Modern Fitted Kitchen Diner
- Off Road Parking for 2 Cars
- Low Maintenance, Garden

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**Hollingbourne | Price Range: £640,000-£680,000**

- Large 5 Bedroom Within Large Plot
- 4 Receptions, 2 Ensuites, Kitchen & Utility
- Sought After Village Location, Swimming Pool

**BEARSTED OFFICE | 01622 730955**



**Halling | Price: £525,000**

- Beautiful 4/5 Bedroom Detached Home
- Stunning River Views, Garage
- Picturesque Garden With Hot Tub

**SNODLAND OFFICE | 01634 245055**



**Maidstone | Offers in Excess of: £440,000**

- Executive Detached 4 Bedroom Home
- 3 Receptions, Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Cul-De-Sac Location

**MAIDSTONE OFFICE | 01622 683737**



**Maidstone | Price: £364,995**

- 3/4 Bedroom Detached House
- Premiere Road, En-Suite to Master
- Double Glazing, Central Heating

**MAIDSTONE OFFICE | 01622 683737**



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**Addington | Offers Over: £345,000**

- Two Double Bedroom Semi Detached
- Two Receptions Plus Conservatory
- Garage and Parking, No Forward Chain!

**KING'S HILL OFFICE | 01732 222211**



**Larkfield | Price: £225,000**

- 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow,
- Conservatory, Double Glazing
- Desirable Location

**LARKFIELD OFFICE | 01732 847877**



**Burham | Price Range: £210,000-£230,000**

- 3 Bedroom Double Storey Semi
- 2 Receptions, Village Location,
- Double Glazing, No forward chain

**LARKFIELD OFFICE | 01732 847877**



**Maidstone | Offers Over: £175,000**

- 3 Bedroom Family Home On Superb Plot
- Double Glazed, Kitchen & Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking

**BEARSTED OFFICE | 01622 730955**



**East | Farleigh Price Range £160,000-£180,000**

- 3 Bedroom End Terrace
- Semi Rural Location, Off Road Parking
- Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Area

**LOOSE OFFICE | 01622 744067**



**Bearsted: 01622 730955**

**Loose: 01622 744067**

**Kings Hill: 01732 222211**

**Maidstone: 01622 683737**

**Larkfield: 01732 847877**

**Snodland: 01634 245055**



## MOTORS NEWS



### Five-star Astra given lift with safety ratings

VAUXHALL'S eagerly-awaited all-new British-built Astra has received a major lift ahead of its showroom debut on 11 December.

The sixth generation of the family hatchback secured a maximum five-stars in the newly-upweighted Euro NCAP safety test. The Astra result included the most points ever awarded in the category for the new car's active head restraints, which protect against whiplash – the most common occupant injury suffered when a car is struck from behind.



### Blue and white legend of Gordini makes return

RENAULT has preferred the 'Williams' and 'Renaultsport' labels to glamorise performance models yet ignored a motorsport name from the past – Gordini.

Amédée 'The Sorcerer' Gordini developed his own racing stable and Grand Prix cars before being hired by Renault in the mid-1950s and lending his name to many road and racing classics before the branding disappeared around 1980.

The name plus its famous blue and twin white stripe racing livery will be revived next year though by Twingo (pictured) and Clio Gordinis next year.



### Nissan shows that cool car is hip to be square

NISSAN is hyping interest in its new Cube in the hope it can become a cult car like the Fiat 500 and BMW Mini.

It already enjoys that status in its native Japan and UK customers can judge whether a car can be cool as well as square when it arrives here in January.

It defies categorisation, but is closest to being an MPV with a huge cabin allowed by a long wheelbase that has moved the wheels to the extremities of the cubic design.



**THE WAY AHEAD?:** Although not a stunning car to drive, Honda's petrol-hybrid the Insight is cheaper than its arch-rival the Toyota Prius and should average well over 60mpg

# Honda gives an insight into future of motoring

## ROAD TEST HONDA INSIGHT

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

financially against the above rivals. It also undercuts its Prius arch-rival (from £18,590), though you still pay £35/road tax as CO2 emissions are not low enough to reach the free zone.

Expect it to be bulletproof too, with Honda stating the batteries will outlast the car itself.

A genuine five-seat cabin with flat rear floor means the centre back passenger does not feel cramped and a 408-litre boot also beats most rival family hatchbacks, but falls short of the slightly longer Prius (446).

It is not a stunning car to drive though and gearchanging is managed by a smooth continuously variable (CVT) gearbox, but we are entering an era of lower emissions and energy-saving tyres. At least you get an eye-catching dash, with aids to extract the best environmentally and financially from a new 87bhp 1.3-litre engine and 12bhp electric motor combining to offer 0-62mph in a respectable 12.5 seconds.

The latter looks pathetic on paper, but electric motors offer lots of grunt versus weight and virtually instantaneous power, not that the Insight encourages racy driving; whether you press the 'Econ' button for ultra-green mode or not you soon learn to use the throttle sensitively for a green glow of eco success.



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£5995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034  
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**BERLINGO** Multispace, ye08kvw, pas abs, remote central locking, front fog lights, radio/cd, trip computer, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, 7000 miles £8995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

**C2, Airplay Plus 3dr, gl57evr, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, air conditioning, stereo, electric front windows, trip computer, electric mirrors, automatic electric windows, radio, mp3 player , 3000 miles, £5995, Welling, 0208 303 4030**

**500.** 1.4 Sport 3dr Hatch, wn58wcy, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, space saver spare wheel, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, sports seats, traction control, tropicalia yellow, 15 miles, £10995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

**DOBLO** 1.9 Multijet Dynamic 5dr  
[120] Diesel Estate, rv58jfl, pas, abs,  
air conditioning, remote central  
locking, front electric windows, front  
fog lights, alloy wheels, radio/cd, trip  
computer, electricdoor mirrors,  
steering wheel reach adjustment,  
drivers airbag, folding rear seats,  
body coloured bumpers, service  
indicator, space saver spare wheel,  
lumber support, immobiliser, front  
armrest, beige metallic, 17250 miles,  
£8995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892  
549766 (TRADE)

**GRANDE** Punto, na56uso, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, 20000 miles, £6795, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

**C-MAX, 1.6TDCI TITANIUM 110 5DR**  
[DPF], ea58axk, adjustable seats,  
adjustable steering column/wheel, air  
conditioning, alloy wheels, central  
locking, electric mirrors, remote  
locking, colour coding body..  
insurance group:8, blue, 3741 miles,  
£14490, Crayford, 01322 621667  
(TRADE)

**C-MAX**, 1.8TDCI ZETEC 5DR -  
PRIVACY, n108yvs, esp, privacy glass,  
quickclear, adjustable seats,  
adjustable steering column/wheel, air  
conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft  
system, central locking, child locks,  
cloth upholstery, colour coding body,  
computer, driver airbag, electric  
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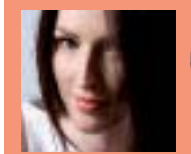


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## WOMEN seeking men

**MAKE IT LAST** Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 441558

**MATCH OF THE DAY!** Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft 2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

**NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...** Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

**LOOKIN 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE!** 25yr old female, 5ft8, medium-curved build, NHS, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTW, tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship. maybe LTR. Box 442644

**IS ANYONE OUT THERE?** 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTW cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

**GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE** Loving lady female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

**HORSES FOR COURSES...** Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

**A FAIRYTALE ENDING!** Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

**HAPPY DAYS!** Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

**FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...** Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

**WHAT YOU SEE...** Young looking 36 year old, 5ft4, brown eyes, slim, one daughter, hard working, very sincere and caring, genuine, GSOH, seeks similar male 33-43. Rochester. Box 460307

**STARRY NIGHTS** Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

**HISTORIC MEETING?** Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

**I LIKE DRIVING IN MY CAR** Honest, caring woman, 36, 5ft5, slim, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest, have four children. I enjoy drives, horse riding. Maidstone. Box 446159

**SEIZE THE DAY** Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

**LOVE TO LOVE YOU** Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

**MEND A BROKEN HEART** Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been with a past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

**CUTE AS CAN BE** Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

**EASY TO LOVE** Lovely African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968

**YOU CAN'T RESIST...** Fun loving intelligent lady, 39, blonde, attractive, GSOH, lots of energy, one daughter, now looking for that special man to share life with. Tonbridge. Box 459991

**AN AFRICAN DIAMOND** 38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446876

**DON'T LET ME DOWN** Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684



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**YOUNG-AT-HEART** Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun, male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

**A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE** Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

**NO TIES** Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTW slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573

**TAKE A LITTLE TIME** Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145

**TOUGH BUT TENDER** Loving single mum, 40, likes clubbing but especially nights in with a scary film, seeking loyal, tough, tender man to share my life with. Whitstable. Box 461047

**CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU** Professional female, 41, 5ft, brown hair/eyes, likes country pubs and walks, looking for a gent, 42-55, to share a happy future with. Gillingham Box 462538

**BETWEEN US** Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900

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**FOR A RELATIONSHIP?** Shy but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

**TLC ON OFFER** Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, with like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

**HAPPY TIMES ARE HERE TO STAY** Single mum, 42, 5ft6, likes fun nights out, cinema, meals out, cuddles and kisses, looking for a fun-loving gentleman to share happy times with. Ashford. Box 459892

**LOVE IS ALL AROUND** Happy-go-lucky, bubbly, blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley. Box 454517

**HELLO EVERYONE!** Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTW a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford. Box 454569

**DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?** Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129

**SHOW ME LOVE** Active sporty female, 43, enjoys the usual things in life, looking for someone genuine and honest, initially for friendship but then who knows? Tunbridge Wells. Box 868335

**TALL ORDER** Curvy lady, 5ft9, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes. I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020

**LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL!** Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

**ACTIVE TYPE** Lively, energetic fun loving mum, 42, 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair, hazel eyes, WLTW honest, fun, mixed race/black gent, for lasting relationship. Box 451819

**ANOTHER CHAPTER** Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

**SWEET AS HONEY** Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing. Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

**HOW YOU DOING?** Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459129

**ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL!** Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

**A REAL DIAMOND** African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoys most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury Box 460999

**MAKE A DATE** Petite female, 52, blonde, blue eyes, seeks 46-61 year old single male for life. Interests include walking, photography and more. Brighton. Box 866322

**YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...** Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

**COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE** Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTW similar loving male. Box 443642

**DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?** Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

**ALWAYS LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE** Intelligent woman of 56, gosh. Loves London, plays/shows, cinema, walking, the sea, travel, seeking a Kentish male companion of similar age to share these. Maidstone. Box 460816

**PERFECT MATCH** Mature, attractive lady, fair hair, brown eyes, in good shape, loves travel, theatre, sport, music, seeking the company of a cultured, funny, adventurous male. Maidstone. Box 462273

**ANIMAL LOVER** Attractive lady, non-smoker, aged 57, GSOH. I enjoy eating in/out, seeing friends, theatre, animals, and WLTW similar, non-smoking male. Box 452498

**I'VE GOT THE GOLDEN TICKET** Christian female, 57, looking to meet a nice man with gosh to go to the cinema and have fun with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 449225

**LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!** Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

**DIVORCED** Loving, kind, honest female, 58, 5ft6, interests include the countryside, old pubs, music, reading and baking. Looking for that special someone to enjoy life with. Box 879455

**WALKS ALONG THE COAST** Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

**BE YOURSELF** Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865780

**BRIGHTENING UP** Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. WLTW tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

**SIMPLE PLEASURES** Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and WLTW like minded gent. Box 459467

**LOVE ME DO** Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

**THE ONE AND ONLY** Caring and honest female, 62, 5ft slim, attractive like motown, 50s, 60s 70s music, adore animals with lots of love and affection to give. Tunbridge. Box 460279

**QUALITY TIME** Widow, early 60s, likes dancing, drinks, gardening, socialising, and walks works, seeking a good gent. Ramsgate. Box 460872

**PUT SPARK INTO LIFE** Caring slim female, 64, 5ft2, like meals out, cinema, walks, gardening and golf, looking for a kind and loving companion. 60-68. Box 450581

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necessary.  
Full training and  
vehicle provided.  
Call 01732 760484

## Porsche Centre Tonbridge

**Receptionist - Saturday 8-5pm**  
**Competitive Salary and benefits**

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and confident individual to work on our reception desk. As the first point of contact you will need to have an excellent telephone manner, be of smart appearance and enjoy meeting and greeting customers and making them feel welcome. Previous experience in a similar role would be an advantage but it is not essential as training will be provided.

To apply for this position, please send your CV to

Sharon Mallin, Porsche Centre Tonbridge,  
Brook farm, Five Oak green Road, Tonbridge,  
Kent TN11 0QN or email  
[sharon.mallin@porschetonbridge.co.uk](mailto:sharon.mallin@porschetonbridge.co.uk)



**CARE STAFF**  
**Weekend Days and Nights**  
**available for experienced,**  
**reliable and caring people**  
**From £7ph – East Peckham**  
**For an interview please call Kevin**  
**on 01622 871081**

We are a care home for adults with a learning disability and require  
**Waking Night Carer**  
To cover waking night shifts from  
10pm-8am Mon, Fri and Sat nights.  
Full training will be given. Own transport essential due to location.  
Any job offer is subject to full CRB check  
Please contact The Grange on 01580 240118  
to arrange an informal interview

## Care Home in Darenth, Nr Dartford Require

**I Night Care Assistant**  
To work various night duties, mainly weekend  
**I Part Time Care Assistant**  
To work 7am-2pm, mainly weekends  
Experience is an advantage but not necessary as full  
training will be provided. Due to location you will need  
your own transport  
Please contact Margaret or Debbie 01322 224423

**A REWARDING NEW CAREER IN  
HEALTH AND WELLNESS**  
Arriba Weight Loss Challenge Leaders required  
Full Time/Part Time £1000-3000 per month  
Full training and support available

Call Estelle on 01622 664861  
[www.arribakent.biz](http://www.arribakent.biz)

**SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL**  
North Street, Sutton Valence,  
Maidstone, Kent ME17 3HL  
[www.svs.org.uk](http://www.svs.org.uk)

## DOMESTIC CLEANER

Required to work Monday to Friday for 35 hours per week,  
with 4 weeks paid holiday plus bank holidays. Previous  
cleaning experience desirable. Further details may be  
requested from Stuart Harris, Estates Bursar:  
telephone 01622 845254 or email: [harrisst@svs.org.uk](mailto:harrisst@svs.org.uk)  
Closing date for applications: **7th December, 2009**

## CHIPSTEAD LAKE - RESOURCE CENTRE RESOURCE CENTRE TEAM LEADER

To cover maternity leave- February to October 2010  
£17,745 per annum + £487 NVQ allowance

This is an exciting opportunity to lead a growing and  
successful resource centre for disabled people. You will  
have a minimum of 1 year's experience working with  
physically disabled people and a NVQ level 2/3. You  
will be leading a small team and co-ordinate the  
provision of activities so you must be an excellent  
communicator and organiser.

This would be a great opportunity for someone who  
wishes to gain management experience.  
Contact us during office hours on 01732 459510 (Sevenoaks) -  
24 hr recruitment line 01732 464336.  
Transport is an advantage due to location.

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## GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

In collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College,  
we wish to offer the following:

**Trainee placement on the following Graduate Teacher  
Programmes from Sept 2010**

**Science English Music Maths Design Technology**

The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at  
Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by  
Canterbury University.

The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in their chosen  
subject. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently.  
Salary will be £15,461

This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003,  
is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby  
London and the Channel coast. NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which  
is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a  
well established ethos of professional development for all our employees.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you  
enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the  
necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat  
about this opportunity and for further details.

**An application form can be obtained from the school by telephone 01474  
533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email [taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk](mailto:taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk). Please  
enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: [www.ntc.kent.sch.uk](http://www.ntc.kent.sch.uk).  
Closing Date is Friday Dec 11th 2009**



**Community Liaison Officer**  
Grade: C2 – Salary: £19,621- £26,276  
Hours: 37 hours per week – 52 weeks a year  
(variable in accordance with the needs  
of the Children's Centre)  
Location: Miers Court Primary School  
Silverspot Close Rainham Gillingham Kent ME8 8JR  
Tel: 01634 388943 or e-mail:  
[office@mierscourt.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@mierscourt.medway.sch.uk)

Would you like to be part of the exciting new Children's Centre at Miers  
Court Primary School?

We are seeking to recruit a Community Liaison Officer to join our enthusiastic  
team as we prepare to open our brand new children's centre. Someone who  
welcomes new challenges, has an excellent sense of humour and is willing to  
lead a team offering new projects for local families with young children and  
working in partnership with a range of local agencies.

### Applicants should have:

- education to degree level or relevant experience
- the skills to involve families with young children within a diverse community and become active in the community.
- a good knowledge of the local community.
- excellent communication and leadership skills.
- the ability to maintain systems and a wide range of records and written reports.
- the aspiration for excellence in services for children and families
- a commitment to equal opportunities in service delivery and employment.
- an enthusiasm to develop good working relationships with a wide range of partners, agencies and individuals.
- a desire to keep abreast of current developments, research and best practice, and to review, evaluate and implement change accordingly.

Informal visits to the school are most welcome.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records  
Bureau Disclosure.

To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact:  
Mrs Sue McCracken, Headteacher, on Tel: 01634 388943 or email  
[patts004@medway.org.uk](mailto:patts004@medway.org.uk)  
Closing Date: 15th December 2009





**Cognitive Behavioural Therapist - Step 3 High Intensity**

£29,789 – £39,273 AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 7  
 ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM  
 BASED IN THANET • 37 HOURS PER WEEK

KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. You will join our Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service within KCA's Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) team. You will provide high intensity CBT interventions for a range of common mental health problems. You will also provide an advisory service to IAPT colleagues on matters related to practice and delivery of CBT to individuals accessing the service in line with IAPT guidelines and best practice. The role may include group work, if the post holder is qualified and competent. We provide a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration.

A Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is essential, and you must be accredited or working towards accreditation with the BABCP. To discuss this role informally please contact the Service Manager, Lynda Burr on 01843 593832 (Monday, Wednesday or Friday).

An application form and job description can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote ref: 622.

Closing date: 18 December 2009.

Interview date: TBA. Interviews will take place in Ramsgate.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity no: 292824.

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)



**B.M. WINES Ltd.**  
 are looking to recruit a  
 Full-time **bi-lingual** (English / French )  
**ACCOUNTS - ADMIN. ASSISTANT**

We are a small well established and successful Wine Agency representing mainly French Wine Producers selling to the Japanese market

We are looking to recruit an adaptable and conscientious person to take charge of all our accounts office procedures, as well helping out with other office functions as necessary  
 Computer literacy and attention to detail essential  
 Salary according to ability and experience

Please send C.V. to : Jon Baldwin, B M WINES Ltd.  
 Kent House, 81 Station Road, ASHFORD. TN23 1PP  
 Tel.: 01233-650954 e-mail : [jon@bmwines.co.uk](mailto:jon@bmwines.co.uk)

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**Bluebird Care (Canterbury & Thanet) have immediate vacancies in this area for people who are committed to excellence...**

**Care Manager**

The successful candidate will hold a relevant qualification and have experience of managing a care service.

**Part-time Domiciliary Care Workers**

Must be reliable and hardworking.

**Live in Care Workers**

Substantial experience of care work is required for these positions. You must be able to work on own initiative will ideally hold a care qualification or be prepared to work towards one.

Excellent rates of pay and mileage for all positions.

Please telephone **01843 570638** or **01227 206473** or email [canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk](mailto:canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk) for an application pack stating which post you wish to apply for.

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**Curator of Public Programmes** circa £25k

**Development Manager** circa £36k

**Finance Manager** circa £34k

**Learning Officer** circa £25k

Turner Contemporary is seeking ambitious, creative and highly motivated individuals to join the team in all areas of our work. Designed by David Chipperfield Architects, the Gallery will open in spring 2011.

You will be joining us at a key stage in Turner Contemporary's development and will play a major role in developing and realising the gallery's programmes, profile and operating systems as we prepare to welcome our visitors.

To find out more about Turner Contemporary and to apply for any of the above roles, go to: [www.turnercontemporary.org](http://www.turnercontemporary.org)

Closing date for applications: **Wed 16 December 2009**  
 Interviews will take place week commencing **4 & 11 January 2010**





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## MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

### Programme Area Leader in Childcare/Health and Social Care Ref: PAL06

Salary: £30,204 - £32,865 per annum

### Programme Area Leader in Engineering Ref: P0219

Salary: £30,204 - £32,865 per annum

### ESOL Programme Area Leader Ref: P0153

Salary: £30,204 - £32,865 per annum

### Programme Area Leader in Art and Design Ref: P0383

Maternity Cover  
Salary: £30,204 - £32,865 - per annum

We are looking to recruit exceptional candidates for the above roles to provide support to the Head of Faculty on all Staffing, Student, Curriculum and Quality issues. The successful candidates will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning, and have good negotiating/communication skills. The post holders will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

### Lecturer in Engineering/Civil Engineering Ref: P0678

Salary: £22,653 - £27,476 per annum

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of programmes across the Faculty which includes Electronic, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering disciplines. The successful candidate will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold an HNC/HND/Foundation degree or higher in one or more of the above Engineering specialisms. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

### Instructor in Catering Ref: P0384

37 hours per week, 40 weeks per year  
Salary: £16,749- £19,127 pro rata

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the Instruction and Assessment of a range of Catering and Hospitality programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and recent experience within the industry and hold the A1 and V1 award or be willing to work towards it.

### Quality Administrator Ref: P0383

26 hours per week, 38 weeks per year  
Salary: £15,607 - £17,750 pro rata

We are looking for a confident individual to provide administrative support to the Head of the Quality Department. The successful candidate will have the ability to work independently and to deadlines as well as excellent communication and IT skills.

### Customer Service Advisor Ref: P0375

Salary: £15,225 - £17,402 per annum

We are looking for an exceptional individual to provide a comprehensive and efficient front-line service to the College students, staff and visitors. The successful candidate will be responsible for supporting the smooth running of the College reception. The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills.

### KSRC Technician Ref: P0647

15 hours per week  
Salary: £18,433 - £22,367 pro rata

We are looking to recruit a science Technician to support the delivery of teaching and training at the Kent Science Resource Centre. The ideal candidate will have good interpersonal skills and a recognised qualification in a related science subject. Proven knowledge of a Biology or Chemistry laboratory environment is essential.

### Painter/Decorator Ref: P0335

Salary: £18,433 - £20,974 per annum  
Night shifts

We are looking for a hardworking individual to maintain the good decorative order of the College. The successful candidate will hold a recognised qualification in painting and decorating and experience within the industry would be advantageous. The ability to self motivate and self manage is essential due to the working pattern.

Closing Date: Wednesday 16 December 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



## ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE MECHANICS

Due to further expansion vacancies exist for Roadside Assistance Mechanics at our depot in Canterbury.

Ideal applicants will possess City & Guilds and have proven experience in the Motor Trade, semi-skilled applicants will be considered as training is available. A current C1 Category Driving Licence is required. The suitable applicants will be required to work a shift rota which will include nights and weekends. The remuneration package is dependent upon experience but has the potential of high earnings.

**Apply in writing, including a CV to:**  
Personnel Director, Eclipse Recovery Services Ltd,  
The Warren, Ratling Road, Ratling,  
Canterbury, Kent CT3 3BD  
Or call 01304 843011 for an Application Form.

Closing date: Friday 4th December 2009

**KENT & MEDWAY NETWORKS LTD**  
Unit 21, Pelhamton Enterprise Centre, Shilway Road,  
Folkestone, Kent, CT16 9BB

**Part-time  
Admin / Accounts Clerk**  
1 position located in Folkestone  
Salary £16,000 pro rata  
(2 days per week)

**Job Summary**  
To provide effective administrative and accounts support.

Candidates must have the ability to work with a team and on own initiative with minimal support. Excellent keyboard skills and computer literacy is essential in addition to good organisational and time management skills with an accurate and systematic approach.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 11 December 2009.

For a job description, please contact info@kntm.co.uk or telephone 01524 259560.

Kent & Medway Networks Ltd is an equal opportunities employer.

To advertise in this section

**01303 817040**

### Account Handler/Administrator Dover £18,000 - £20,000 pa, Full-time, Permanent

Acorn Marketing Ltd is a small, dynamic sourcing agency that imports custom-printed promotional products to sell 'Business to Business' to UK clients.

We're hiring a highly motivated all-rounder for this critically important role. Day-to-day you'll be responsible for handling leads, preparing print estimate spreadsheets, issuing print quotes by email, and liaising with suppliers to manage print jobs. You'll need to be a good communicator with plenty of experience (min. 3 yrs), have a basic knowledge of print, and strong computer skills in MS Word, Excel and Outlook. Crucially, you'll be effective at juggling competing priorities and working on your own initiative.

To apply: Send your CV with covering letter to  
Jennifer Baniak-Hollands, Acorn Marketing Ltd.,  
105 London Road, Dover, Kent CT16 3AA  
[jennifer@acorn.uk.net](mailto:jennifer@acorn.uk.net)  
Closing date: 18/12/09

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL  
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP  
ACT 2004**

**APPROVED PREMISES FOR  
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Archbishops Palace, Mill Street,  
Maidstone**

Applicant: **Sharon Birch**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.  
Giles Adey, Head of Registration  
Regulatory Services  
First Floor  
Invicta House,  
Maidstone, ME14 1XX





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Proven experience of teaching Numeracy and GCSE Maths to young adults is essential, combined with the ability to teach learners at all levels. A Level 4/5 specialist qualification in Adult Numeracy would be ideal.

This College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our users and expects all staff to share this commitment, in order for all to achieve their full potential. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check and to provide proof of your right to work in the UK.

**To find out more, view our full list of opportunities and apply online, visit [www.wkc.ac.uk](http://www.wkc.ac.uk) Alternatively call 01732 376511 or email [hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk](mailto:hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk) Please quote ref: KOS14**

**Closing date: 12noon on 10th December 2009**

west kent  
college



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Our multi - media business which includes the award winning Kent on Saturday and Kent on Sunday is seeking an ambitious, highly driven, confident and self motivated person to join their sales team.

This **TELEPHONE SALES EXECUTIVE** position is office based and due to the location you would need to have your own transport. You would be responsible to maintain and grow an existing client base of advertisers plus search out new business to develop your territories revenues. You will need to be organised to meet weekly deadlines, have good communication skills and an ability to work under pressure is essential along with being flexible to changing priorities.

If you feel you can meet and exceed these qualities and expectations then apply in writing to:

**Tracy Morgan, Telesales Manager,  
KOS Media Ltd, Apple Barn, Hythe Road,  
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR  
Or email [tracy.morgan@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:tracy.morgan@kosmedia.co.uk)**



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Picture: IGOR KUPCO



IN FORM: Maidstone ladies' impressive run continued

## Maidstone race out of the blocks in easy win

MAIDSTONE moved up to third in the East Women's Premier League following a comfortable win at Thurrock.

Rachel Thompson's side made a fast start to the game and opened the scoring after 16 minutes from a quick passing move finished by Cara Brogan. Maria Miles, who was recalled to the squad after her performance in the cup last week, added a second goal shortly before the break.

Maidstone briefly lost their way early in the second-half as Thurrock tried to haul themselves back in the game. However, in the final ten minutes Claire Daniels netted

### HOCKEY

**Thurrock 0 Maidstone 3**

a third goal to secure the win and the three crucial points.

With Holcombe only managing a 1-1 draw at league leaders Dereham, Maidstone moved above their Kent rivals into third spot. Thompson's side are just six points adrift of leaders Dereham and three points behind second-placed Canterbury. Maidstone's title challenge is set for another test when they

host Canterbury this Saturday.

Maidstone men's mini revival was brought to an end on Saturday, as they were comfortably beaten 3-0 at home to Wimbledon.

Darren Marchant's side, who have scored ten in their last two league games, found goals hard to come by on Saturday. Wimbledon were clinical in attack and strikes from Seb Malti, Andy Watson and Giles Wood secured all three points.

This Saturday, Maidstone travel to fellow strugglers Tulse Hill & Dulwich in the South Hockey League Premier Division One.

### CROSS-COUNTRY

Picture: IGOR KUPCO



**DETERMINED:** Mike Coleman (pictured) is hoping to secure his third win on the bounce

## Coleman's relishing a county title tilt

MIKE Coleman returns to action this weekend at Danson Park, Bexley, as Medway & Maidstone's senior men's team continues its quest for the Kent Cross Country team championship.

With two wins from his first two races, Coleman is determined to clinch the individual league title for the first time, a focus which can only bode well for the M&M team, sitting first after wins at Gillingham and Tonbridge.

Adrian Lowther, cross-country team manager, said Coleman's contribution was a huge boost not only to the team, but the club in general, with M&M enjoying success throughout the male age groups.

He said: "We're already in a very strong position and a win on Saturday would go a long way to securing the league title. If we were to win three of the four meetings, we'd have a very good chance."

"Mike's been training very hard, he's never won the league before so he wants to compete in all four races. Without Mike in the team we're probably substituting one point for ten or 12, so it's a real bonus he's taken that approach."

Ben Tyler, who finished in the top ten at Tonbridge on October 24 – the last time the senior men raced competitively – will be hoping to emulate the achievement and with the return of his brother, Jack, the M&M team looks stronger than ever.

Aside from the senior men's race, Lowther has high hopes for James West in the under-15s category and says the youthful promise within the club is something to get excited about.

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**OUT OF LUCK:** Maidstone suffered a narrow defeat to fellow strugglers Thanet at home at the weekend and remain in the relegation mire in London 1 South

Picture: BOB HAYTON

# Thanet twist the knife in relegation four-pointer

RELEGATION appeared on the horizon for Maidstone as they suffered a narrow defeat to the side immediately above them in the table.

The frustration for the home side was that Maidstone did enough to earn them a critically important victory, but were undone by two moments of slackness in the first-half that eventually undermined all the good work put in. The result lifted Thanet seven points clear of the bottom two, cutting their opponents adrift.

With a bye in the Kent Cup, there was no game for Maidstone the previous weekend, which should have given a chance for old wounds to heal. Instead prop Rob Jeffrey played in the veterans' Evergreen Cup and damaged his Achilles tendon, forcing a promotion for Sam Bailey into the front row.

Rob Pankhurst was restored to hooker and with Steve Matthews back in the second row, the pack was restored to a familiar format.

A positive start by the home side was im-

### RUGBY

■ BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

**Maidstone 14  
Thanet Wanderers 17**

mediately negated when Thanet scored with their first attack. They moved the ball wide to Tom Ash, who found space outside Mark Ryan. He should have been tackled by the corner, but the winger forced his way past three challenges to cross the line under the posts, giving the visitors a 7-0 lead.

The score rocked Maidstone, who went on to lose two line-outs and two scrums in quick succession, with only good defence keeping them in the game.

Just when Thanet seemed to be on the point of extending their lead, Maidstone hit back. From a penalty on their own 22, Nick Sargent

took a quick tap and broke through the initial cover to set up a ruck just inside the Thanet half. Quick ball allowed Mike Molloy to make ground and set up Neil Graves, whose neatly timed dummy allowed him to touch down behind the posts. Molloy duly added the conversion to level the scores.

Maidstone began to spend more time in the Thanet half, but a turnover set the visitors on their way to score a second converted try. They took a 14-7 lead into the break.

Maidstone changes at half-time failed to spark a response and a penalty on 65 minutes saw Thanet extend their lead. Staring at an 11th defeat from 12 league games, the hosts finally came to life and scored the try of the game. Mark Ryan burst through the Thanet defence at pace, feeding Ben Cleary to break free. Molloy added the extras to get within three points with ten minutes to play.

The home crowd sensed a memorable finale, but Thanet ran the clock down maturely to secure the victory.

Maidstone visit Old Colfeians on Saturday as the season reaches its halfway mark.



# Second defeat in a week threatens to halt progress

## FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

### Maidstone United 0

### Canvey Island 3

King 32, Rowe 42, 70



MAIDSTONE United suffered their second defeat inside a week as they put in an abject performance at home to Canvey Island at the weekend.

After a disappointing 1-0 defeat at Cray Wanderers last Tuesday night, the Stones were eager to bounce back at Homelands. However, they were forced to rue missed chances, as the Essex side went on to claim a comfortable win.

Maidstone welcomed back Roland Edge to the starting line-up following his recovery from injury and the hosts made a promising start to the game.

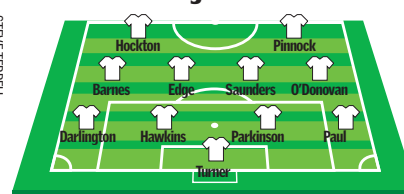
New signing Danny Hockton threatened on six minutes, forcing a smart save from goalkeeper James Russell. Within minutes of the chance, Maidstone's Jamie Turner was tested, as he managed to divert John Curran's shot wide of the post.

Hockton continued to cause problems and was well-placed to test Russell again, but as he



Picture: STEVE TERRELL

#### Maidstone starting XI



Subs used: Odunaike (O'Donovan 45), Boodle (Barnes 83), Rowland (Pinnock 81)

**WELL BEATEN:** Maidstone United's Peter Hawkins came closest to scoring on a disappointing day for the Stones

went to shoot, the ball stopped in a puddle. He managed to get a shot away seconds later, but Russell did well to parry the effort.

The Stones continued to push Canvey back and came close to taking the lead on 21 minutes. A move involving Nick Barnes and

Hockton set up James Pinnock, but he fired wide.

Maidstone's missed chances proved crucial as Canvey opened the scoring in 32 minutes. A poor goal-kick from Turner was picked up by Craig Davidson and his cross was headed into the net by Rob King.

To make matters worse Canvey added a second goal ten minutes later through James Rowe. Greg Cohen split the Maidstone defence before Rowe rounded the goalkeeper and slotted the ball into the net.

The home side struggled to find the cutting edge needed for a second-half comeback and with 20 minutes of the game remaining, Canvey wrapped up all three points with a third goal. A long ball caught the Maidstone defence napping and Rowe was on hand to lift the ball over Turner and into the net.

Canvey almost rubbed salt into the wounds with a fourth goal, but Turner was alert to the effort. Peter Hawkins came close to a pulling a goal back late on as his header was cleared off the line, but Maidstone were left well beaten at the final whistle.

## LEAGUE TABLE

(before last night's games)

### RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dartford	16	13	2	1	+36	41
2 Hastings United	18	10	3	5	+6	33
3 Canvey Island	17	8	4	5	+6	28
4 Kingstonian	17	9	1	7	0	28
5 Sutton United	15	8	1	6	+10	25
6 Tonbridge Angels	17	7	4	6	+1	25
7 Ashford Town (Middx.)	18	7	4	7	-3	25
8 Horsham	14	7	2	5	+7	23
9 Tooting & Mitcham	15	7	2	6	+3	23
10 Wealdstone	13	6	5	2	+2	23
11 Boreham Wood	16	7	2	7	+2	23
12 Harrow Borough	16	6	4	6	+1	22
13 Carshalton Athletic	16	6	4	6	-1	22
14 Maidstone United	17	6	4	7	-2	22
15 AFC Hornchurch	16	5	4	7	-3	19
16 Aveley	15	5	3	7	-1	18
17 Cray Wanderers	18	5	3	10	-13	18
18 Hendon	14	5	2	7	-3	17
19 Margate	15	5	2	8	-11	17
20 Waltham Abbey	18	4	5	9	-13	17
21 Billericay Town	14	2	6	6	-9	12
22 Bognor Regis Town	17	2	5	10	-15	11

## FIXTURES

(Saturday): Ryman Premier: Tooting & Mitcham

United v Maidstone United



Picture: MARTIN WATSON

**EDGED OUT:** Aylesford Bulls failed to secure their first win as Dover clawed back in the final ten minutes

## Bulls agonisingly close to win

AYLESFORD Bulls' search for a first win was cruelly taken away from them as they were edged out by Dover in the final ten minutes at The Mote.

The Bulls made an edgy start to the game at the weekend and with just two minutes on clock they found themselves behind. Dover forced a turnover in possession and were awarded a penalty, which they duly converted.

Minutes later Aylesford took the lead as they capitalised from a penalty 15-yards from the try line. Winger Alipate Vakasawaqa took a quick tap and stormed through the Dover defence to score under the posts. Dan Harvey added the conversion to give the Bulls a 7-3 lead.

The lead was short-lived as a poor clearance kick from Aylesford was picked up by Dover and the Sharks scored their first try of the afternoon to regain the advantage.

The hosts pushed Dover back with a num-

## RUGBY

### Aylesford Bulls 10 Dover 20

ber of deep kicks, which eventually forced an error from the visitors. Bulls were awarded a penalty, which was kicked by Harvey to level the scores at 10-10 at the break.

Scoring opportunities were hard to come by with both sides reduced to 14 men early in the second-half. Harvey came the closest to adding to the score, but his penalty and drop goal drifted wide of the posts.

As the game entered the final ten minutes, Dover grabbed the lead with a successful penalty. Any hopes of a comeback from the hosts were extinguished minutes later, as the visitors scored a late try through Ricky Mackintosh to clinch the two points.

Aylesford travel to face Tunbridge Wells this Saturday.

## FOOTBALL



Picture: STEVE TERRELL

**HAPPY:** Alan Walker is targeting a play-off spot

## Manager Walker's happy with Stones' half-term report

WITH the season edging towards the halfway point, Maidstone United joint-manager Alan Walker is content with his side's position in the Ryman Premier League.

After 17 league games, Maidstone find themselves three points adrift of the play-off positions in 14th place. The club have occupied a place in the top ten for the majority of the campaign so far and Walker believes there is more to come from his side.

### Going well

He said: "Looking at it I'm happy considering the constraints we have had to work with this season. Compared to what we had to deal with last season, things are going well. Of course there are areas we need to improve on, we need to get some consistency with our results, but I think we can have a stab at the play-offs."

The Stones inconsistency was highlighted with a 1-0 defeat to Cray Wanderers on Tuesday, followed by Saturday's 3-0 loss to Canvey Island, all coming a week after a 1-0 win at Blue Square South side Bromley in the FA Trophy.

Walker admitted he was disappointed with the performance from his side on Saturday and felt a goal would have changed the game.

He said: "From our point of view we are disappointed with the performances in the last two games. On Saturday we had chances to score but at this level the team who scores the first goal often goes on to win the games. We didn't get the goal, but if we did it would have been a totally different game."

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